

St. Gregory the Great

Williamsville, New York 14221

Pastoral Message

EASTER AND NEW LIFE!



Spring is my favorite season. For me it has the sensation of new life. The air smells clean and fresh; there is the fragrant perfume of blooming hyacinths and the colorful, pungent scent of flowering lilac bushes. The varied and brilliant colors of all kinds of flowering plants change the landscape from death to vibrant life.

Spring is an appropriate time for the new life of resurrection. We have walked through the somber days and weeks of Lent practicing self-denial to make more room for Jesus in our life. As we come to the end of Lent and focus on Jesus' life more intensely, we sense in the readings of the Mass the growing rejection and hostility of many of Jesus' own people. In the liturgy of Holy Week, we experience in words, music, and action the betrayal and condemnation of Christ by the Romans as a revolutionary, and by his own people as a blasphemer.

Even as He suffers the capital punishment of crucifixion, we sense more strongly the depth and strength of His love for all of us together and each one of us individually. The darkness and discouragement of Good Friday and Holy Saturday give way to the brilliant sunrise of resurrection. The glory of Jesus alive overcomes darkness, the devil and death. Each year, Easter should find each one of us with a new presence of the loving Christ living in our lives forever.

May you, our parish family of St. Gregory, have joy, peace and security this Easter and every Easter of your lives.

Msgr. Wright

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Highlights and Notices

SAINT GREGORY'S EASTER PRAYER

It is only right, with all the powers of our heart and mind, to praise You Father and Your Only-Begotten Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Dear Father, by Your wondrous condescension of loving kindness toward us, Your servants, You gave up Your Son. Dear Jesus, You paid the debt of Adam for us to the Eternal Father by Your Blood poured forth in loving kindness. You cleared away the darkness of sin by Your magnificent and radiant Resurrection. You broke the bonds of death and rose from the grave as a Conqueror. You reconciled heaven and earth. Our life had no hope of eternal happiness before You redeemed us. Your Resurrection has washed away our sins, restored our innocence, and brought us joy. How inestimable is the tenderness of Your love!



We pray You, Lord, to preserve Your servants in the peaceful enjoyment of this Easter happiness. We ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord, Who lives and reigns with God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MASS, APRIL 27 AT 9:30 A.M.

Fr. Jim Bastian will celebrate our monthly Family Mass with a children's homily next Sunday, April 27, at 9:30 a.m. Many families will be away over spring break, so mark your calendars now for this special celebration. Lindsey Burkard and Chris Girard will proclaim the Word, and Mrs. Manning will lead her choir in song. We need ushers and gift bearers. If your child is interested, please call Mary Beth Basil at 688-6853. Thank you.

MASS OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

A special Mass at which the Sacrament of the Sick will be administered by our Pastor and Parochial Vicars is scheduled for Sunday, May 4, at 2:00 p.m. We invite all who are seriously ill, physically or emotionally, to come and receive the very special graces of this sacrament. Caregivers, doctors, and nurses are also invited to be present as you are anointed. They will participate in the liturgy and be acknowledged for their special ministries to the sick. Questions? Call Sister Maureen at 688-5678, ext. 340.

TWO CLOTHING DRIVES COMING UP:

THE JUNIOR LADIES OF CHARITY BABY CLOTHES COLLECTION

On Saturday, April 26, and Sunday, April 27, the Jr. Ladies will be collecting baby clothes for Harvest House. Place your contributions in the box located in the vestibule of the church.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY ANNUAL SPRING CLOTHING DRIVE

The Drive will be held on Saturday, May 3, and Sunday, May 4. A truck will be available in the church parking lot near the Ministry Center on Saturday from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Receipts for tax purposes will be available. **CLOTHES ONLY, PLEASE!**

THANK YOU...HOPE...YOURS TO GIVE

The 2003 Catholic Charities Appeal committee of St. Gregory the Great extends a heartfelt thank you to the generous Parishioners who contributed to this year's campaign. We were informed that a number of people did not receive their pledge cards prior to last Sunday's deadline. This impacted the contribution that our parish normally provides to the Diocesan appeal. Over 100 pledge cards will be remailed this week. Kindly call the Business Office at 688-5678 to receive a pledge card or drop your pledge in the Sunday offering.

Masses for the Week



Saturday, April 19 – Holy Saturday

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
12:00 p.m. Blessing of Easter Baskets

Easter Vigil Mass:

8:00 p.m. William E. Henneman by Bob & Barb Klocke

Sunday, April 20 – Easter Sunday!

8:00 a.m. Karen M. Fassl by Family
9:30 a.m. John King by Family
11:00 a.m. Louise Militello (anniv.) by Susan Militello & Carol Mazza
12:30 p.m. Decker H. Pardee by The Pardee Family
4:30 p.m. Mary Kowalkoski by Julia Leby

Monday, April 21

7:00 a.m. Gino Cesar by Jim & Bev Farry
8:00 a.m. Anastasia Kuhn by Family
12:00 p.m. Robert Mrowka & Kathryn Buchbinder by Anna Mrowka

Tuesday, April 22

7:00 a.m. **For the Parishioners of St. Gregory the Great Parish**
8:00 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of DiGiore & Santora Family by Phyllis & Dan DiGiore
12:00 p.m. Sarah Restivo (birth.) by daughter, Francine Wimble & Family

Wednesday, April 23 – SS. George & Adalbert

7:00 a.m. Mary Ann Helinski by Mr. & Mrs. Sam Carocci
8:00 a.m. Eleanor O'Day by Paul & Rita Boland
12:00 p.m. Antonino Campione by son, Joseph Campione & Family

Thursday, April 24 – St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen

7:00 a.m. Belen Sanchez by Jim & Sarah Llinas
8:00 a.m. Ruth Timmel by Sue Ripstein & Class 201
12:00 p.m. John & Sophie Gburek by Arlene Gburek & Family

Friday, April 25 – St. Mark

7:00 a.m. Grace McKendry by Jim & Bev Farry
8:00 a.m. Wm. Montague by Bizio & Lena Farace
12:00 p.m. Joseph Galbo (birth.) by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Gallo

Saturday, April 26

8:00 a.m. Dr. Oguz K. Sarac by Family

Vigil Masses:

4:00 p.m. Ronald Wagner (anniv.) by Rose & Peter Barone
6:00 p.m. Maria Luppino by Husband & Children

Sunday, April 27 – Second Sunday of Easter/Divine Mercy Sunday

8:00 a.m. **For the Parishioners of St. Gregory the Great Church**
9:30 a.m. John & Sophia Wandryk by Jane Crowe
(Children's Mass)
11:00 a.m. Frank & Stella Dukat (birth.) by Marie Dukat & Family
12:30 p.m. David E. Jones (anniv.) by Family
4:30 p.m. Joseph J. Spero (birth.) by Debbie Zunner & Family

Religious Events

THE FOLLOWING MASSES...

...WILL BE OFFERED BY REV. JOHN KUHLMANN
AT OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH, BEMUS
POINT, N.Y.:

Tuesday, April 22 – Michael Diegelman by Kirk & Karen Stubbendeck

Wednesday, April 23 – Cecile Grzybowska by Vince & Joanne Patruzo

Friday, April 25 – Rose LaMastra by Dr. Kevin J. Hanley

WINE OFFERING

Frank A. Barciniak by Wife and Family

OUR RECENTLY DECEASED

Molly Noto, Sister Marcella Bauerlein, SSJ, Mary J. Minneci, Michael Gilmartin.



THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Monday, April 21 – Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33; Matthews 28:8-15

Tuesday, April 22 – Acts of the Apostles 2:36-41; John 20:11-18

Wednesday, April 23 – Acts of the Apostles 3:1-10; Luke 24:13-35

Thursday, April 24 – Acts of the Apostles 3:11-16; Luke 24:35-48

Friday, April 25 – Acts of the Apostles 4:1-12; John 21:1-14

Saturday, April 26 – Acts of the Apostles 4:13-21; Mark 16:9-15

For full-text daily Mass readings,
go to www.saintgregs.org

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)

RCIA is open to those who are:
not baptized and wish to become Catholic (including youth)
baptized Catholic, but not catechized
baptized in other Christian churches and wish to become Catholic.
Please call our Parish Office at 688-5678 for more information.

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION
"FANNING THE FLAME"
Dawn Iacono, Chair, 636-8987**

Adult Faith Formation – Circle of Seasons



EASTER

The great Feast of the Resurrection is celebrated in the Spring. As noted in our Pastor's message, the warmth of spring brings us the hope of fullness of life. The association of Easter with spring is important, as we celebrate Jesus' new life and our hope of sharing in that new and everlasting life.

BIBLE STUDY: *"Suffering from truth decay? Brush up on your Bible."* Contact: Joan King at 688-7238.

M.O.M.S.: *"Every mother has the breathtaking privilege of sharing with God in the creation of new life. She helps bring into existence a soul that will endure for all eternity."* Next meeting : May 9 – a Mother's Day Tea. Speaker: Beryl Kinney. Babysitting available! Contact: Mary Criden, 634-7861/Dawn Iacono, 636-8987

HONOR OUR MOTHER MAY 1 AT 7:30: Pope John Paul II has declared October 2002-2003 the Year of the Rosary. We will be saying a Rosary for peace to Mary, the Queen of Peace, in the Church or (weather permitting) in the Grotto. Light refreshments will follow in the Gathering Room. All are welcome!

"SUNDAY SITTING": No babysitting will be available Easter Sunday!

SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES: Contact: Laraine or John Leardon at 689-2924.

MUSIC MINISTRY REHEARSALS

6:00 p.m. Ensemble – 5:00 p.m., Saturday, April 26 in GR#2
9:30 a.m. Ensemble – No Rehearsal on Monday, April 21
11:00 a.m. Choir – 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 22 in GR#2
Children's Choir – No Rehearsal on Monday, April 21
The Children's Choir will be singing at the Family Mass on Sunday, April 27th

Confirmation Choir Rehearsals
7:00 p.m., Sunday, April 27 in GR#2
7:00 p.m., Sunday, May 4 in GR#2
7:00 p.m., Sunday, May 11 in the Church

Bell Choir

The Bell Choir is seeking new members who can read music. Please contact Kenya Ruiz at 565-0293. The Bell Choir will be preparing for Pentecost Sunday.

People interested in Music Ministry should contact Daniel Vicoor at 688-5678, ext. 308.

**RICHARD J. VIVACQUA TO RECEIVE
THE ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER AWARD:
SUNDAY, APRIL 27**

It is a pleasure to inform you that Richard J. Vivacqua has been selected to receive the Lay Award of St. Joseph the Worker, in recognition of his unselfish labors on behalf of the Church.

Rick attended and graduated from St. Gregory's School and, while in school, he was an Altar Server. He is presently a Lector and Minister of Communion. He taught Religious Education for over 10 years and served on the board during that time. In 1985, Bishop Mansell appointed Rick as a Trustee of St. Gregory's and it is a position that he still holds. As Trustee, he has been an "ex officio" member of the Finance Council and its Executive Committee; a member of the Parish Council and its Executive Board; the Buildings and Grounds Committee; a Great Race volunteer; and on the gift committee for our Family-to-Family Christmas program. When Mission began, he served on the core committee, along with Stewardship in Faith and Service, and Renew. In the summer of 2001, he served as chairman of the Search Committee for the new business administrator.

Rick is a faith-filled man, a daily Communicant. Parish ministry is not just a part of his life – it is woven into his very being. He is truly concerned for the development and health of Parish ministry and willingly contributes his time, talent, and treasure to that end. Rick and his wife, Mary Kate, have been in our parish for 17 years. They have two children, Catherine and Daniel. Congratulations to Rick and family.

ST. GREGORY THE GREAT FOUNDATION

Many of us remember our high school and college with special gifts. Why not remember where it all started at St. Gregory the Great. What a marvelous way to say thank you to the priests, parents, teachers and religious who helped each of us take our first steps on our walk with God. A gift to support our school through the St. Gregory the Great Foundation is an endless and timeless gift to your parish family. Please call the Parish Office for more details or to arrange a confidential planning meeting.

**THE CATHOLIC BIBLICAL
STUDIES PROGRAM**

Learn what the Bible passages are really saying, how our relationship with God is portrayed for us, and how this knowledge provides us with a true spirituality based on our understanding of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The program consists of lectures, informed discussion, and at-home Bible study. One session will be offered at St. Greg's. For more information, please call Barbara at 688-6249, or the CBS Office 871-9180.

PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL



"Do not regard the bread and wine as simply that, for they are, according to the Master's declaration, the body and blood of Christ. Even though the senses suggest to you the other, let faith make you firm."

Stewardship & Parish Ministry ** Parish Activities

SFS
IN
ACTION



Stewardship by the Book – A Spiritual Message: *Alleluia! Christ is risen and is victorious over sin and death! We are good stewards of our faith if, like St. Paul, we share this good news whenever and wherever we can.*

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP: The next meeting is Tuesday, April 22, at 7:30 p.m. in MC#5 with the topic, “*The Levels of Recovery.*” Everyone is welcome.

FOOD SHUTTLE MEETING: Scheduled for Wednesday, April 23, at 7:15 p.m. in the School Cafeteria. Anyone interested in joining is most welcome **and much needed.**

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE: Please consider a donation for the Holy Family statue. Mail to: Harvey Hoelscher, 470 Shetland Drive, Williamsville, 14221. Questions? Call Mike and Mary Pesarchick at 633-2352 or e-mail mikemaryp@yahoo.com.

THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY: The next Mass is Sunday, May 4, at 11:00 a.m. Set these dates aside: June 1 – Trip to the Genesee Abbey, and June 6 – Golf Outing.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: The love of our neighbors is a safe and rather accurate measure of our love of God. Easter joy to our membership, their families, and friends.

A LETTER FROM BISHOP MANSELL

Catholics in the United States home mission and the “young” dioceses of the Caribbean and the Pacific territories face challenges in living their faith that most of us in large, more established dioceses never have to encounter. You can help them by contributing to the **Catholic Home Mission Appeal.**

Here at home in the United States, 85 dioceses simply are unable to provide the most basic pastoral ministries of word, worship, and service for their people without outside funding. These poor dioceses need financial assistance to support parishes, evangelization, religious education, campus ministry, seminary training, ethnic ministries, youth and lay ministry programs. The Catholic Home Missions Appeal offers essential help.

We are called to support the missionary efforts of our Church in so many poor, remote and rural parts of the United States. I invite you to respond generously to the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Help strengthen our Church at home.

This collection will be taken at St. Gregory’s next weekend, April 26 and 27. There will be two offerings and one collection. Thank you.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS!

Robert Courtney has been a member of the Parish for 25 years. Attended grade school at St. Greg’s. Robert, is an Account Executive with Infinity Broadcasting, and lives in Amherst with wife, Barbara and their four children. He serves on the Marriage Prep Committee and is a current member of the Mission Team.

Kathleen Behan is married to Tom and they have two children, Eileen and Katie. She is the Vice President/Chief Operating Officer of First Amherst Development Group. They have been Parishioners since 1973 and Kathy is also an Alumni of St. Gregory’s School. She is active in Perpetual Adoration, Mission, Marriage Prep, Habitat for Humanity and the Great Dinner Auction. Kathleen and Tom were the Chair couple for our 2003 Catholic Charities Appeal and 2000 Raffle Calendar.

Robert Klocke, M.D: Bob and his wife, Barbara, have been members of St. Gregory the Great Parish for over 30 years. They served terms as President Couple of the Home School Association and Chair couple of the School Bingo fund-raising program when their three children attended our School. Bob and Barbara are Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, and team members of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults for eight years. In 1999, they received the St. Joseph the Worker Award for their efforts at St. Greg’s. Bob was a member of the Board of Trustees of St. Joseph’s Collegiate Institute for six years and is a recipient of the School’s Alumni Association Signum Fidei Award.

THE DIOCESE OF BUFFALO JOYFULLY ANNOUNCES THE ORDINATION OF PIOTR F. ZACZYNSKI (our Peter Z.)...

to the Holy Order of Deacon, to be conferred by His Excellency, Most Rev. Henry J. Mansell, on Saturday, May 3, at 10:00 a.m. in St. Joseph’s Cathedral. Piotr (Peter) was at St. Gregory’s during his deacon internship year. Congratulations and God bless you, Peter, and welcome back to St. Gregory’s!

15TH ANNUAL INTERFAITH HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION

Tuesday, April 29, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gregory the Great Church with guest speaker William Eisen, a Holocaust Survivor. Please come and join us as we remember those who perished in the Holocaust. Co-sponsored by the Network of Religious Communities, Inc., The National Conference for Community and Justice, and the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Letters for parishioners who plan to be Baptism godparents or Confirmation sponsors will be issued to those who:

1. Are registered members of St. Greg’s
2. Are confirmed, attend Sunday Mass, and receive Holy Communion regularly
3. Ensure that their children receive religious instruction in Catholic schools or Religious Education programs
4. If applicable, have been married in accordance with the regulations of the Catholic Church.

Please call the Parish Office to arrange for a letter.

NOTE: Non-parishioners must also provide a letter if they plan to be godparents or sponsors at St. Greg’s.

Parish Activities

St. Greg's Scouts and Altar Servers Awarded: Within the last few weeks, a number of St. Gregory's fine young people have been recognized at Diocesan functions with Bishop Henry Mansell presiding.

ALTAR SERVER OF THE YEAR AWARDS
Erin Wright and Brendan Curry

SCOUTS AD ALTARE DEI EMBLEMS
Matthew Chirumbolo, Adam Danni,
Matthew Handley, Jonathan Jasinski,
Peter Krysztof and Andrew Smyczynski

The Ad Altare Dei (Latin for "to the altar of God") religious emblem program emphasizes how each of the seven Sacraments contributes to the Scouts growth and development in the Catholic Christian community and in the Scouting unit.

Our parish family publicly congratulates all of them and their families!

LET'S HELP THE LADIES OF CHARITY KEEP OUR CHURCH CLEAN AND NEAT: At the end of Mass, please place your missal on the right and the songbooks on the left in the book rack, with bindings up. Remove your papers, tissues and food bags, too! This will show our pride in the Parish and consideration for our parishioners at the next Mass. Thank you!

THE NEXT MEETING...is Monday, April 28, at 7:00 p.m. in GR#2 with Eileen Warner as guest speaker. Please remember to do your Church Care assignment. The next workday at the LOC Thrift Store is Monday, May 5. Sign up with Mary Joan to work. The voluntary donation is paper products and/or personal toiletries to be given to our St. Vincent de Paul Pantry.

SINGLES SHARING FAITH: You are welcome to join us for breakfast on Sunday, April 27, at 10:00 a.m. at Salonica's Family Restaurant at 9210 Transit Road, and in our discussion on Wednesday, May 14, at 7:30 p.m. in MC#3. We welcome new members! Contact: Fran at 839-0035 if you are planning to attend or would like to sign up.

A REQUEST FROM ST. GREG'S ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION: We are currently planning to remodel the storage facility in the school. Any parishioner interested in submitting a plan and bid, please contact Diane Kaiser, AA president, at 688-2147 or through the school office mail.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: Join us on Saturday, April 26, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to help build a Habitat house currently under construction. To volunteer, please call Jerry or Mary Jo at 634-0961 or Candy at 631-0863. No skills or tools required, but you must be at least 16.

GREAT RACE FRIDAY, JUNE 20 AT 7:00 PM: Add this date to your June calendar now!

CARE NOTES: These helpful pamphlets are available in the vestibule of the church.

**THE GREAT DINNER
AUCTION #5 IS OCTOBER 18**

Our first organizational meeting is Wednesday, April 30, at 7:00 p.m. in GR#1. Become a part of this GREAT event! Contact Darleen/Peter Ronca at 568-1272.

Parish Calendar

THIS WEEK

- Saturday, April 19 – Holy Saturday**
RCIA reception follows Easter Vigil (GR)
- Sunday, April 20 – Happy Easter!**
- Monday, April 21**
7:00 p.m. Respect Life Committee Mtg. (MC#4)
- Tuesday, April 22**
7:30 p.m. Bereavement Support Group Mtg. (MC#5)
- Wednesday, April 23**
1:00 p.m. Ladies of Charity Rosary Making (MC#5)
7:15 p.m. Food Shuttle Meeting (School Cafeteria)
- Thursday, April 24**
6:30 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul Mtg. (MC#5)
8:00 p.m. Men's Basketball (MC Gym)
- Saturday, April 26**
8:30 a.m. Adult Faith Formation SCC Mtg. (MC#1)
- Sunday, April 27**
1:30 p.m. Jr. Ladies of Charity Mtg. (MC#5)
7:00 p.m. Youth Group Meeting (MC#6)

RAFFLE CALENDAR WINNERS

April 8	#5623	St. Greg's	\$50.00
April 9	#1748	Sam Syracuse	\$50.00
April 10	#6242	St. Greg's	\$50.00
April 11	#4648	St. Greg's	\$50.00
April 12	#2113	Sandra L. Marinello	\$50.00
April 13	#2067	Mr. & Mrs. George E. Michael	\$100.00
April 14	#8356	St. Greg's	\$50.00

SPLIT CLUB WINNERS

1st Week of April: Total.....\$166.00

First Prize...	Mr. James T. Palisano.....	50%...	\$82.00
Second Prize...	Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Spellman.....	20%...	\$33.00
Third Prize...	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas A. Fentner.....	10%...	\$17.00
Fourth Prize...	Mr. & Mrs. Arthur D. Caruana.....	10%...	\$17.00
Fifth Prize...	Mr. & Mrs. John F. Jeffery.....	10%...	\$17.00

2nd Week of April: Total.....\$166.00

First Prize...	Deacon & Mrs. Ronald Dains.....	50%...	\$82.00
Second Prize...	Mrs. Kathy M. McLean.....	20%...	\$33.00
Third Prize...	Dr. Francis C. Hornung.....	10%...	\$17.00
Fourth Prize...	Mr. & Mrs. Michael McLaughlin.....	10%...	\$17.00
Fifth Prize...	Dr. & Mrs. Irineo Gutierrez.....	10%...	\$17.00

JOB OPENING: ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE AUCTION

Part Time: The Dinner Auction Committee is looking for a motivated individual with administrative experience to oversee all administrative activities that support the Great Auction. Must possess strong computer and communication skills. The position requires accuracy, attention to detail, organization, and timeliness. Forward resumes to the Parish Office, 200 St. Gregory Court, Attn: Auction, or call Darlene Ronca at 568-1272.

OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE
AND PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
ON FRIDAY, APRIL 18, AND MONDAY,
APRIL 21, IN OBSERVANCE OF EASTER.

**WE WISH YOU A
HOLY AND BLESSED EASTER!**

