

SAINT GREGORY THE GREAT

PARISH COMMUNITY

LIVING THE GOSPEL . . .

~ IN FAITH

~ IN WORSHIP

~ IN SERVICE



Third Sunday of Advent

December 15 & 16, 2018

From the desk of the Pastor

Rejoice in the Lord always! Again I say Rejoice! This Third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday which translates to "Rejoice Sunday." This year more than ever we need to reflect on the ability to rejoice in the midst of a very difficult time for our Diocese and Catholic Church. It is easy to be drawn into the media and the daily conversations about the problems in the Church, especially with its priests, but we cannot allow these stories to eclipse the fact that the work of the Church continues and that there is a reason to also rejoice. There is still light penetrating the darkness of this time.

I returned on December 1 and in the short time that I have been back from my sabbatical I have seen marvelous things. By and large the ministries of the parish are still vibrant and strong. We just had nearly 80 junior-high teens participate in last weekend's "Middle School Mayhem" on Friday and Saturday. We have six people looking to become Catholic in the RCIA process. We just added 45 new Altar Servers to the ranks of that ministry. The list can go on and on further. I hope you see my point, that there is light shining through the darkness of this hour. I hope you are still able to rejoice in the midst of suffering.

Now, not to reverse my statements above, I do need to address some serious issues that have come to my attention since my return from my sabbatical. Since my return I have learned that Mass attendance is down. Every parish in the Diocese is experiencing this issue, given the scandal. I am most thankful that you are still actively participating in the Eucharist. If you are reading this article, I assume you are the light of faithfulness penetrating the darkness of doubt and disillusionment.

Many of our brothers and sisters in Christ are questioning their faith. For some, this scandal has been a personal issue and an issue close to home. It is devastating for everyone and perhaps completely destructive for some people. It is important for us to reach out to those who feel they can no longer worship with us and it is very important to pray daily for their spiritual well-being. It is vitally important to reach out and invite them to Mass and the Sacraments. **(Continued on page 2)**

Christmas Mass Obligations

Monday, December 24, Daily Mass

Monday, December 24, 7:00 & 8:00 am

To fulfill your Christmas obligation there will be Masses on:

Monday, December 24, at 4:00pm in the Church,
4:05pm in the School Gym, and
4:10pm in the Ministry Center Gym
6:00pm and 12:00 midnight in Church

Tuesday, December 25, at 8:00am, 9:30am,
11:00 am, & 12:30 pm

*** There is no 4:30 pm Mass on Christmas day ***

There will be one daily Mass on Wednesday, December 26, at 8:00am. All Parish Offices will be closed from Monday at noon, December 24, through Wednesday, December 26. The Parish Office will reopen at 8:30am on Thursday, December 27.

PARISH SOCIAL/ NEW PARISHIONER WELCOME

All parishioners, including new families, are invited to join us on December 16 for coffee, juice and donuts, after 9:30am Mass, in the Gathering Rooms. If you wish to join the parish, you may register at this time.

(From the desk Continued from Page 1)

I have also learned that our Sunday collection has decreased by 18%. This is a mater sum of money that will immediately impact our ability to live life as usual. I am aware that many have stopped donating to St. Gregory's because of the scandal. Some have directly spoken to me about it and others have spoken to the other priests in my absence. Some have not spoken to us directly, but we have noticed once-regular donors now no longer giving at all.

Of course I am troubled by this, as we rely on our Sunday offering to offer the ministries serving the people of St. Greg's and beyond. I have come to understand that some believe their Sunday offerings are going to pay settlements and legal fees during this crisis. I do not know where that idea has emerged. Bishop Malone has been clear to tell us that a separate "Independent Reconciliation Fund" has been established which does not draw from the parishes, but is redeploying other Diocesan funds and assets, such as the Bishop's former residence on Oakland Place in the City of Buffalo, to meet these obligations. The parish Sunday offering is just that, the Parish offering. There is a percentage of every parish's income that goes as an assessment to the Diocese, but that assessment is used to run the Diocesan offices and Diocesan ministries.

That being said, I regret to inform you of the following items. Beginning immediately, we must cut our expenses. As you know, when I arrived on February 2, 2014, the parish office was open Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. I quickly changed that to be more accommodating for people to come to the parish office. I extended our hours to include Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening hours from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm and Saturday hours of 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and now even Sunday hours from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. However, to meet some of our fiscal shortfall, the parish office hours will return to Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm with no evening hours, and on Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:00, with no hours on Sunday. Furthermore the priests will only be available to meet with people during regular parish office hours when our regular staff is in the office. There will be no exceptions to this. I am sorry for the inconveniences this may pose, but given the climate we are in we must be prudent. If our Sunday collection returns to our regular amounts I will be most happy to extend office hours again.

In order to help close the fiscal gaps, we have completely eliminated the Advent and Lent Reflection Books as well as the books or CDs that we have given to you on Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day and Father's Day. This will be approximately a \$20,000 savings. Also, I ask you to please dress a little warmer for Mass. The church has been kept at 71 degrees and we will be lowering that to 65 degrees, to reduce our utility cost. Finally, I have asked each ministry funded by the parish to minimally decrease their spending by 10% and to look to a possible 20% reduction.

I am sorry to be the bearer of "bad tidings" as we prepare to hear the "great tidings" of the birth of our Savior this Christmas. I do not want you to give way to despair, but rather hope. Our Church has suffered many moments of crisis over 2000 years and we have always survived and emerged stronger for suffering through the crisis. I am certain the same will be true now. I thank you for all of your support of St. Greg's and I humbly ask you to consider if you can increase your support, or to return to the list of donors if you have absented yourself from donating.

May God bless you, our Mother Mary watch over you and St. Gregory the Great intercede for you, always.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon. Dec. 17: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17
Tues. Dec. 18: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25
Wed. Dec. 19: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25
Thurs. Dec. 20: Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38
Fri. Dec. 21: Song of Songs 2:8-14; Luke 1:39-45
Sat. Dec. 22: 1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56
Sun. Dec. 23: Micah 5:1-4a (12C); Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The joy of kindness

Reading I Zephaniah 3:14-18a (promise of a Savior)
Reading II Philippians 1:4-7 (joy & peace)
Gospel Luke 3:10-18 (John calls the people to justice)
Key Passage Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. (Luke 3:3)

Adult: *To whom have your past acts of kindness brought joy? What act of kindness could you do this week?*

Child: *What kind thing have you done for someone lately? Whom could you make happy by your kindness this week?*

Family Faith Formation

FFF Office Hours are Monday - Friday,
from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm and when classes are in session.

Christmas Gift Collection: A Special Thank You to all of the parent and student volunteers who helped us sort and deliver the hundreds of gifts (over 1700) over the December 8 and 9 weekend! Your help makes it possible to help and give some cheer to so many in need. Thank you for your kindness!

Christmas Break: There are **NO** Family Faith Formation classes for Little Cherubs and Grades 1-10 from Saturday, December 22, 2018 through Friday, January 4, 2019. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 5, 2019. The FFF Office will be closed December 21, 2018 - January 1, 2019. FFF Offices reopens on January 2, 2019.

Save the Dates:

Disciple Camp First Friday Club: Disciple Camp students and their friends (Grades 5-8) are invited to our First Friday Club on January 4, 2019 from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm in the School Gym and Cafeteria.

January Dates for Generations of Faith:

Session A Sunday, January 6, after the 9:30 am Mass
Session B Sunday, January 6, 12:30 - 2:00 pm.
Session C Thursday, January 10, 6:15 - 7:45 pm



Grade 5 FFF Students made Advent Wreaths they took home along with a prayer booklet that explained the origins of the Advent wreath.



Catechist Corner

Encounter Jesus....

Mother Teresa said, "I see Jesus in every human being. I say to myself, this is hungry Jesus, I must feed him. This is sick Jesus, ... I must wash and tend to him. I serve because I love Jesus."

"Invite children to talk about what these words mean. Ask how we can do this in our lives...."

Suggest to students to do something nice for someone when they least expect it....

Find Jesus in others, especially the distressing guise of the poor....

Meet Jesus at work in daily life: Invite teens to think of 'coincidences' that could only be attributed to divine intervention. "

¹ Rosien, Mary Lou. "Encounters with Jesus: 50 Ways to Help Facilitate That With Children, Youth, and Adults.". <http://www.catechist.com/encounters-with-jesus/> August 7, 2018 19 Nov. 2018.

VOCATION VIEW

John the Baptist urged his followers to turn from their sins and renounce anything that was keeping them from doing God's will. If God is calling you to priesthood or religious life, what can you turn from in order to hear the call more clearly and answer more readily? If God is calling you to a Church vocation, call Fr. Andrew Lauricella at 716-847-5535. You can also check out the "Priest of the Month" stories on our website – www.buffalovocations.org/

Religious give thanks. "This money is pure gift," writes a religious sister of the support made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious. "It enables us to continue providing care for our elderly sisters." Your gift to last week's collection helps hundreds of religious communities meet pressing retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God. Thank you for your generosity!

Living Nativity

Rejoice! Rejoice! Join St. Gregory's on Wednesday, December 26, from 7:00 - 9:00pm, and Thursday, December 27, from 7:00 - 9:00 pm, to continue the celebration of Christ's birth with a walk-through Living Nativity. This will feature live animals, a children's choir of angels, and much more. Guests will meet in the Parish Gathering Room, where they will walk through various scenes depicting the journey to Bethlehem. All are welcome to join us for this special event which focuses on the holiness of the season.

St. Gregory the Great School News

Advent has Arrived!

Growing up, I don't think I really understood what the season of Advent truly meant. It is easy to think of this season as getting ready for Christmas through our traditions of cookie making, shopping, caroling, decorating the tree and many more. As I have learned more about Advent I look forward to this season which helps us live our core values of faith, love, hope, and reconciliation.

At St. Greg's as our students celebrate this joyful season in preparing for the coming of Christ about 2,000 years ago as a baby in Bethlehem, we also celebrate the anticipation of His second coming and the fulfillment of His Kingdom. Students will sit with their prayer partners at our next school Mass. Students are very excited to share Mass and be able to pray together. Many grade levels participate in service learning projects throughout the season. Our 5th Graders will participate in a day of recollection during this Advent season to help students have some time to reflect.

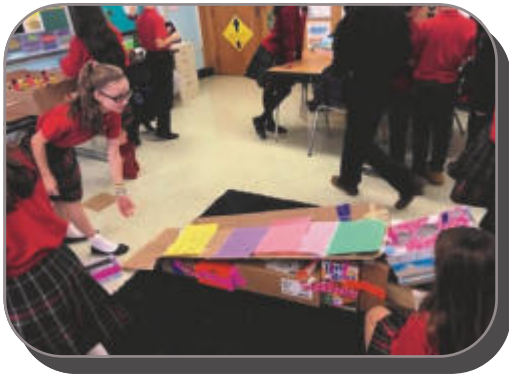
Recently, students from Mrs. Mucica's WIN block researched, created, and presented to their 5th Grade by class celebrating a week devoted to kindness and paying it forward to others. Students enjoyed participating in different activities which focused on kindness, acceptance, tolerance, and inclusion which demonstrates the theme of the week which is hope. Students and staff have the opportunity to prepare for and participate in Reconciliation during the month of December. I am very blessed to have rediscovered the beauty of this Sacrament in my adult life. As a child it was a time to confess your sins and say a prayer for your penance. In my adult life I believe it is an important sacrament of healing which is so greatly needed in this world today. If you have the opportunity please see the offerings at St. Greg's Parish or our neighboring Parishes.

God bless, Mrs. Gajewski
Principal

5th Grade Arcade Academy



ArCADE Academy is an after-school club that allows students to use their creativity, take their inventive ideas and create "arcade games" out of cardboard, paper, and plastic products. "Cougars Arcade" is run to allow the students of the school to come and take their chance at these enticing games that the players want to keep playing! All proceeds collected are donated to Roswell Park.



5th Grade Art Gallery

The 5th Grade attended Albright Knox Art Gallery on Wednesday, November 28th to explore and learn about art. The students were asked wonderful questions to get them to use their investigation skills to explore the meaning behind the pieces of art. The paintings and sculptures studied during the field trip delivered a connection to the Science and Social Studies curriculum covered in school.



Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Adam Jarosz: ajarosz@stgregs.org; Nicole Janecek: njanecek@stgregs.org; Richard Patti: rpatti@stgregs.org
~ 688-3578

Middle School: Visit stgregsym.org for more information!

Ignite– January 15, 22, 29

Our brand-new 5th and 6th Grade group meets from **6:00-7:30pm on Tuesdays**. Join us for fun, games, faith, and food! Don't miss it!

EDGE– December 20, January 17, 24, 31

Our amazing 7th and 8th Grade group is back and better than ever! Join us every **Thursday at 6:30pm** for a night full of crazy games, engaging talks, great music and more! Come and bring a friend!

If you have any questions about Middle School Ministry, feel free to contact Nicole!

Life Teen– December 16, January 27

Every **Sunday after the 4:30pm Mass**, join our amazing high-school community for a night of food, friends, and fun! Life Teen offers an engaging way to learn about the Catholic faith, while managing to have fun at the same time! All high-schoolers are welcome!

SWAT Team– December 19 and January 9, 16, 23, 30

Are you looking to delve deeper into your Faith? Do you want to learn more about prayer and Scripture? Then this group is for you! **Wednesdays at 7:00pm** join us for prayer, discussion and snacks!

High School Hangout– December 21

Once a month on **Friday at 7:00pm**, high-schoolers get to take over the ministry center for a night of food and fun! Come and bring a friend!

Empowered In Christ–January 2

Empowered in Christ is our girls prayer and community group. We meet once a month at 7:00 pm. This group offers opportunities for young women to share and learn about their faith together. All high-school girls welcome!

High School Havoc January 11-12

Attention all high-schoolers! We will be taking over the Ministry Center all night for a night of awesome games, tons of food, movies and more! Come and bring a friend! Grab a permission slip from the youth office or print one online at stgregsym.org!

March For Life January 17-19

We are going to Washington DC to participate in the March for Life. This trip includes the march as well as tours of the city of Washington DC. Transportation will be by coach bus. Contact Richard if you are interested in participating!

If you have any questions about High School Ministry, feel free to contact Richard!

Youth & Young Adult Ministry (continued)

Open Young Adult Lineup

Oasis Magazine: Monthly email refresher with good content to keep you going!

Amped: *NEW* is an ongoing program which builds community and develops faith for young adults. Meet someone new, learn something great, and discuss something relevant. No need to sign up or pay; bring a friend. We'll gather in the Café 7:00-8:30pm, **check the website for dates**.

Mass and Lunch: #YoungAdultWednesdays continue! Take a break from the school or workday and join for daily Mass at noon and break bread with us in the Café with some lunch. If you see a pew of young adults, come sit with us!

College Lineup

College Life: College Life helps fuel college students through the semester. College Life will gather 7:00-8:30pm every other Monday in the Café. Come grab something to eat and seek answers to the biggest questions you'll have being a student on campus. **Check website for dates**.

Exodus 90: Gentleman! Our next session of Exodus 90 is starting soon. Running January 21 through Easter, we are gathering a group of men looking for a challenge to grow in faith. For 90 days, men will learn to persevere, suffer and depend on God, above all else. Well-documented science tells us it takes a minimum of 90 days to break addictions and bad habits. The 90 days of Exodus aids men in beginning anew and preparing them for a life of greater virtue. Steeped in asceticism by stripping away the distractions of life and building discipline of faith and body through spiritual and physical exercise, we will journey together through 90 days of growth with the brotherhood. This is a difficult and rewarding challenge. If you are looking to up the ante in your life, consider learning more about this by contacting Adam at 688-5678 ext 316.

Senior Citizens

The JANUARY & FEBRUARY, 2019 MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED due to Church construction.

December 29 - January 2, 2019 Savannah Trip CANCELLED

Oplatki Christmas Hosts

Oplatki Christmas Hosts will be placed at all entrances to the Church. Oplatki is a tradition of sharing bread with your family during Christmas. Please take one to share with your family. Free-will offering accepted.

WEATHER-RELATED PARISH SCHEDULE

Please note that if the school is closed due to inclement weather and the faculty and students do not report, the Parish Offices are not immediately closed. It will be up to the discretion of the Pastor if the Parish will close and all activities will be cancelled (including Adoration). Please check TV/radio listings for activity cancellation.



A Very Special Thank You to all of you who generously donated gifts for the Christmas Gift Collection. Over 1300 tags were placed on the Christmas Tree in the vestibule and we received over 1700 gifts to warm the hearts of some very needy families. **Thank you all so much and God Bless you for your kindness and generosity!**



Follow St. Greg's on Social Media



- Like us on Facebook at St. Gregory the Great
- Follow us on Twitter @StGregsBuffalo
- Download the St. Greg's Mobile App. Search St. Gregory the Great and enjoy daily spiritual quotes.

Sacramental Information: Confirmation

Reminder: Sponsor/Candidate Sessions are being held on January 5 from 10:00 am - 3:45 pm and on January 13, from 10:30 am - 4 :15 pm in the School Gym and Cafeteria. Please remember to attend the sessions you chose to attend.

Grade 2 First Penance Parent Workshop is on Wednesday, January 9, 2019 from 7:00-8:00 pm, OR on Saturday, January 12 from 9:15 - 10:15 am in the School Cafeteria.

First Penance Mass of Enrollment is on Sunday, January 13, 2019 at 9:30 am in Church.



K of C Free Throw Championship



All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in St Gregory's Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship to be held in the **School Gym** on Saturday, January 19, at 12:00 noon – 2:00pm.

Participation is free. Contests are by age and gender. Winners are determined by best of 15 free throws. Participants are required to furnish date of birth (copy or original birth certificate/passport/etc.). Competing based on age on January 1, 2019. Parental/guardian consent forms are available at event.

All participants receive recognition. Winners receive special certificates and patches. Winners are invited to the District Level Championship (February 9), with an opportunity to keep advancing all the way to the State Championship.

Questions or requests for parental consent forms can be directed to Jim at 481-0986.

"SPIRITUAL SPINS & GRINS" From Father Francis

Never has the world had a greater need for love than in our day. People are hungry for love. We don't have time to stop and smile at each other. We are all in such a hurry! Pray to be able to understand how much Jesus loved us, so that you can love others."
(St. Teresa of Calcutta)

ADULT MISSION TRIP – JULY 2019

The smallest little action can explode into a lifetime of love. We will be taking a group of adults ages 21 and over to a Mustard Seed community in Moneague, Jamaica from July 13-20, 2019. If you are interested, please plan on attending an informational meeting on Saturday, January 5, at 3:00 pm in Gathering Room 1. Can't make the meeting? Look for Mission Trip participants in the vestibules after all Masses January 5 and 6 or contact Elizabeth Astridge at stgregsmis-siontrip@gmail.com.

Looking to give to a worthy cause this Christmas? Please consider donating to our Mission Trip Ministry! Go to www.stgregs.org, click on "donate now" and follow the link to our Mission Trip Donation page. Thank you for your generosity!

LECTORS NEEDED

The Lector Ministry needs several new Lectors. Lectors are assigned once every five weeks on a rotating schedule through seven weekend Masses. An email system is available to contact all Lectors to arrange for a substitute when an assigned Lector has a scheduling conflict. To join this rewarding Ministry, please contact Bob Klocke at 688-6249 or raksgg@verizon.net.



Respect Life

Update on HHS Mandate: On November 7, the Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), Treasury, and Labor released two updated rules concerning conscience protections for organizations and individuals in relation to the HHS contraception mandate. According to [the] HHS, the new rules “provide an exemption from the contraceptive coverage mandate to entities and individuals that object to [such] services ...on the basis of sincerely held religious beliefs [and thus they are] ...no longer ...required to provide such coverage.”

The new rules also cover nonprofit organizations, small businesses, and individuals that have “non-religious moral convictions” opposed to the services covered by the mandate.

Under the Affordable Care Act, employer-provided health insurance plans are required to cover certain “preventative services” ...including all contraception methods approved by the Food and Drug Administration, including abortifacient birth control pills, IUDs, and sterilization procedures.

Initially, there were no exemptions for those opposed to the distribution of contraceptives due to their deeply-held religious beliefs. Eventually, an exemption was made, but it was so narrow in scope it excluded religious orders such as the Little Sisters of the Poor. The Little Sisters along with several other organizations filed suit against HHS over the mandate.

The HHS also confirmed that government programs providing contraception either for free or at a lower cost to low-income women will not be impacted by these new rules. (Full text at catholicnewsagency.com)

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) issued a statement expressing gratitude for the new exemptions, calling it a victory for common sense.

“We are grateful for the Administration’s decision to finalize common-sense regulations that allows those with sincerely held religious or moral convictions opposing abortion-inducing drugs, sterilization, and contraception to exclude such drugs and devices from their health plans.”



Music Ministry

Rehearsals

Children Choir (Grades 2-8)

4:30 pm Tuesday, December 18, in GR 2

The children will be singing at the
9:30 am Mass on Tuesday, December 25.

Choir for Christmas Midnight Mass

7:00-9:00 pm Tuesday, December 18, in Church

For more information about the various ensembles, please check the Music Ministry page on the parish website, or contact Daniel Victoor at 688-5678, ext. 308.



Parish Activity Calendar

Sunday, December 16

10:30 am New Parishioner Social (GR 1)

5:30 pm Youth Ministry Life Teen (MC Gym/Café/
Basement)

Monday, December 17

6:00 pm Youth Ministry Music Practice (MC Basement)

7:00 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting (MC 2)

Tuesday, December 18

3:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Church Balcony)

3:30 pm Children’s RCIA (MC 2)

5:00 pm Youth Ministry Amped (MC Café)

6:00 pm Hand Bell Choir Dinner (GR 1)

6:30 pm Bible Study Eucharist Class (School Foreign
Language Room)

6:30 pm Boy Scout Meeting (School Library/Cafeteria)

Wednesday, December 19

10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (MC Gym)

6:30 pm School Board Meeting (MC 1)

7:00 pm Men of God Meeting (GR 1)

7:00 pm RCIC Meeting (Room 702)

7:00 pm Youth Ministry SWAT Team (MC Basement)

Thursday, December 20

1:30 pm Girl Scouts Meeting (GR 1)

6:30 pm Cub Scout Meeting (MC 2)

6:30 pm St. Vincent de Paul Meeting (GR 1)

6:30 pm Youth Ministry Middle School EDGE(MC Gym)

7:00 pm Living Nativity Dress Rehearsal (School Caf)

Friday, December 21

8:00 am School Meeting (GR 1)

6:00 pm American Heritage Girls Troop Meeting
(School Caf/Gym/Library)

7:00 pm Youth Ministry High School Hangout (M Café/
Basement)

Saturday, December 22

12:00 pm Rosary (Church)

Sunday, December 23

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING...

...through Ann Marie Zon’s Nicaraguan Mission. The Nicaraguan Mission provides a wonderful way to support the needy while giving Christmas gifts to your family/friends. For a \$100 donation you can give a pregnant cow to a needy family. The cow's first female calf will be given to another needy family and will serve the family for seven years, providing milk/cheese and calves. For a \$50 donation you can give a pig which will birth 6-12 piglets twice a year. Or you can send a child to school for a full year...\$30 supports an elementary student, \$50 a middle schooler, \$100 a high schooler and \$600 will send a student to college for a year. Gift Cards will be provided for your recipient. Send your check made out to the Nicaraguan Mission (tax deductible charity) to NICARAGUAN MISSION, 100 Sundown Trail, Williamsville, NY 14221. For further information please call Joe Testa at 688-8357.

Mark your calendars!

**On Wednesday night,
December 19, Santa will be
visiting the Café for Pizza Night!**



**Along with Santa, we will be hosting a local
children's author and illustrator,
Kathryn Anderson: she will be selling and
signing her unique books.**

Come visit with us from 5:30-7:30pm.

CHRISTMAS DECORATION MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Donations are used by the Art and Environment Committee to purchase flowers to decorate the Church for Christmas. Memorials will be acknowledged in the Bulletin. Please return to the Parish Office.

PLEASE PRINT:

Donor's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Memorial donation in memory of:

NAME: _____

AMOUNT: _____

**The Catholic Store and Café will be open through
Sunday 12/23/2018.**

**Both will be closed from Monday 12/24/18 through
1/1/2019 – reopening on Wednesday 1/2/2019.**

“Do This In Remembrance of Me”

Jesus said these words when He instituted the Eucharist. We are in need of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (Eucharistic Ministers). If you have ever considered becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, please contact Jo Pierino at the Parish Office 688-5678. Ext. 301.

VISIT OUR CATHOLIC STORE FOR...

...Advent Wreaths and Candles, Manger Sets, Artwork, Statues.

...Great Stocking Stuffers – Prayer cards, novena books, pocket statues, pocket prayer books, Christmas ornaments.

...Religious Cards – Boxed religious Christmas cards, single Thanksgiving and Christmas cards, DaySpring Cards and Journals.

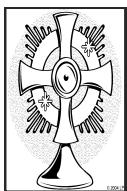
...Family-Friendly DVDs for all ages – Value oriented movies as well as animated movies for children.

...Music CDs for everyone – Including many contemporary Christian artists.

...Books for all ages – Prayer, daily meditation, missals, Bibles, inspirational reading, books on saints.

...Jewelry – Precious-stone necklaces and bracelets with antique holy medals, Rosary bracelets, wooden saint bracelets, rings, sterling silver or pewter patron saint medals.

Catholic Store—276-6920



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

“The fruit of silence is PRAYER, the fruit of prayer is FAITH, the fruit of faith is LOVE, the fruit of love is SERVICE, the fruit of service is PEACE.” (St. Teresa of Calcutta)

OUR ADORATION CHAPEL IS THE PLACE TO FIND COMFORT AND PEACE ESPECIALLY AT THIS TIME. OFFER A HOLY HOUR BEFORE OUR LORD FOR OUR CATHOLIC CHURCH. . Please arrange for a substitute if you will be away during the upcoming Christmas holidays. Adorers are needed for all times and days. Please call Kathy at 759-7149 or Barbara at 634-7478 with a time that is convenient for you, or for more information on Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration at St. Gregory the Great. Thank you for your commitment to spend one hour each week with Jesus in Adoration.

Out of Parish

28th Annual Festival of Lights now through January 6 at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, 1023 Swann Rd. (off Rt. 18), Lewiston. This year's theme – “Let the Children Come to Me (Mt. 19:14)” – showcases the new lighted image of St. Nicholas, patron of little children. Come see this unique feature nestled among the 15 acres of spectacular Christmas lights, including a 9-foot tall outdoor illuminated Nativity scene and a life-size Fontanini Nativity scene in the Basilica. Climb to the top of the Basilica and get an angel's view of the Avenue of Saints and the Spirit of Christmas. Lights on daily 5-9 pm; Shrine open daily 9 am-9 pm. Admission and parking are free. Gift shop open until 9 pm; call for cafeteria hours. For more information and a schedule of our free music concert, call 716-754-7489.

Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 15

Vigil Masses

- 4:00 pm Nicholas W. McGivney (anniv)
by Kate & Dave Gordon
Diane Egger by Husband, George
& Family
- 5:30 pm Sue Wagle (living) by Joe & Ann Deck
Reno Ellero by Family

Sunday, December 16 – Third Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 am Molly Willett by Parents
- 9:30 am Nicholas & Dominico Parisi
by Son & Family
Joseph Kloch
by Mr. & Mrs. James Smyczynski
- 11:00 am Anthony LoBue (birth) by Daughter,
Rosemary Spano
Leonard Casola by Caterina Casola
and Joe & Jenny
- 12:30 pm Joyce Mecca
by Cole & Francine McCarthy
- 1:30 pm Baptisms
- 4:30 pm Sister Sheila Anne Burke
by Charles & Eileen Lestition
Devin Waring (anniv) by Ventura Family

Monday, December 17

- 7:00 am Parishioners of St. Gregory's
- 8:00 am Genevieve Donatelli by Daughter, Deanna
Rose Hoelscher by Mary Lou Daigler
- 12:00 pm Deceased Members of Boehler & Hurley
Families by Margaret Boehler
Joyce Mecca by Lea Billiteri

Tuesday, December 18

- 7:00 am Matthew Smith by Joseph & Diane Kapsiak
- 8:00 am Michael Crabtree by Alice Bender
Dawn Curazzato (living) by Joyce Santora
- 12:00 pm Franklin Boehler by Wife & Family
Joan E. Gugliuzza by Don & Renee Fleming
& Family

Wednesday, December 19

- 7:00 am Philip Craven by John & Amy Persons
Fr. George E. Maj, S.A.C.
by Priests of St. Gregory's
- 8:00 am Chow Kun Man by Shirley & Arthur Chan
- 12:00 pm Bernice Allen by Allen, Benson
& Gerrish Families
Theresa Grange by Lea Billiteri

Thursday, December 20

- 7:00 am Christopher Gatto by Mom
Edmund Kolipinski by Wife & Family
- 8:00 am Robert Meer by Family
(School Mass)
- 12:00 pm Anne G. Wittig (birth) by Husband, Roger
Thomas Zurek (birth) by Family

Friday, December 21

- 7:00 am John & Joyce Ambrosoli by Estate
- 8:00 am Raymond H. Valtin by Lida & Ida
Edda Tiburzi by Senior Citizens
of St. Gregory's
- 12:00 pm Rita Sheeran by Bonnie & Bill Hendrix
Joseph Giardina by Saturnino Family

Saturday, December 22

- 8:00 am Gregory Bielinski by Wife, Anne Bielinski
Judith Rechan by Husband, Les & Family

Vigil Masses

- 4:00 pm Mario & Santo Campanella
by Maria Campanella
Philip Pantano by Pam Pantano
- 5:30 pm Deceased Members of Bucki & Bruch
Families by Carl & Deborah Bucki

Sunday, December 23 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 am Rose Hoelscher by Linda & Bill Dohn
- 9:30 am Charlie Donner by Wife, Teri & Family
- 11:00 am Eleanor & Chester Lis by Family
Judy Rechan by Les Rechan & Family
- 12:30 pm DeAnn T. Nicolaio by Parents
David Hayes by Wife & Family
- 1:30 pm Baptisms
- 4:30 pm Francis X. Trauffer
by Bill & Kathy Schrameck
Josephine & Alfred Caldiero by Children

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WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY!

In November, we Baptized 5 new Christians. Welcome to our parish family and congratulations to the parents of: **Lucas Victor Nowak, Kennedy Rose Parrino, Bennett Matthew Thayyil, Enzo Joseph Vitiello, and Gianna Nichole Weber.** Special thanks to parish seamstresses for the white Remembrance Stoles.

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FatherThomas@stgregs.org

Fr. Paul S. Cygan (336);pcygan@stgregs.org

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ajarosz@stgregs.org

Nicole Janecek - Middle School (341);

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Richard Patti - High School (338); rpatti@stgregs.org

PARISH NURSE

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PRINCIPAL

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Joan M. Rischmiller (358); jrischmiller@stgregs.org

* * * * *

Moving In? Moving Out?

Please contact us to register, or inform us of your departure.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY

8:30 am - 4:00 pm

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Mass Schedule

SATURDAY: 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm

SUNDAY: 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am; 12:30 & 4:30 pm

HOLY DAYS: As listed in the Bulletin.

WEEKDAYS: (Monday-Friday) 7:00, 8:00 & 12:00 noon; (Saturday) 8:00 am only.

For those who are unable to join us, all Masses can be viewed via the Web at: www.stgregs.org

Catholic Store & Café

CATHOLIC STORE HOURS (276-6920): Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm; Wednesday 5:30-7:30 pm; Saturday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm; Sunday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. *Closed Monday.*

CAFÉ HOURS (276-6915): Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 7:30 am - 2:00 pm; Wednesday 5:30-7:30 pm; Saturday 8:30 am - 12:00 pm; Sunday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. *Closed Monday.*

Sacraments

BAPTISM

Baptisms are celebrated every Sunday after the 12:30 pm Mass - limit of six babies, ceremony only. All parents desiring Baptism for their child are asked to attend the Pre-Baptismal class at least two months prior to the Baptism. The class is held the first Tuesday of each month, 7:30 pm, in the Ministry Center, Room 2. If you have had another child baptized within the last three years, you may attend the class or come to the Parish Office to complete the necessary paperwork. Call Jo at 688-5678 to register.

PENANCE (CONFESSIONS)

First Fridays: 8:30-9:00 am; Saturdays: 2:30-3:45 pm, other times on request.

WEDDINGS

Celebrated on Fridays (5:00 pm and 6:30 pm) and on Saturdays (10:00 am, 12 noon, and 2:00 pm). Either the bride or the groom must be a parishioner.

Marriage Preparation – Engaged couples should call the Parish Office at least six months before their wedding to make an appointment with a priest.

MINISTRY TO SICK, HOSPITALIZED, AND SHUT-INS

Sick calls and emergencies – anytime day or night. Call 688-5678.

Please call the Parish Office to arrange to receive Holy Communion at home or to report the hospitalization of a parishioner.

Anointing of the Sick – This Sacrament is administered the first Saturday of each month immediately following the 5:30 pm Mass.

Prayer and Devotion

PERPETUAL ADORATION

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration in our Adoration Chapel 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. New adorers are always welcome. Scheduled adorers commit to one hour a week in front of the Blessed Sacrament, most often with at least one prayer partner. If you cannot make your scheduled hour of adoration, please arrange for a substitute. If you require help, call your hourly captain. For information, call Kathy at 759-7149 or Barbara at 634-7478.

PRAYER

- The **Rosary** is prayed publicly at the following times:
Monday-Saturday, 8:30 am, Church; Monday-Friday, 12:30 pm, Church;
Saturday 12 noon, Grotto or Church (Rosary For Our Country)
- Pray the Saturday Rosary at your convenience with our recording online, which can be found at www.stgregs.org/mass-schedule
- **Lectio Divina (Word of God)** – Wednesdays, 9:00-10:00 am, Gathering Room 2.

Our Mission

St. Gregory the Great Parish, a large and diverse Faith Community, affirms the presence of Christ in the Eucharist and among us. We sustain our vitality through shared experiences of prayer, sacrament, liturgy, and service. We dedicate ourselves to being a vital part of the Church in the Diocese of Buffalo by maintaining and expanding our:

- *Spiritual focus*
- *Knowledge and understanding of our Faith and our Church*
- *Spirit of welcome and reconciliation*
- *Compassion and concern for those in need*
- *Generous sharing of our God-given talents and resources*



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