

# SAINT GREGORY THE GREAT PARISH

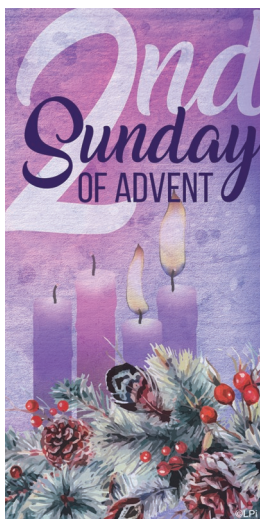
PARISH COMMUNITY LIVING  
THE GOSPEL . . .

~ IN FAITH  
~ IN WORSHIP  
~ IN SERVICE

December 7 & 8, 2019  
Second Sunday of Advent



## MESSAGE FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR



My Dear Parish Family,  
As we celebrate this Second Sunday of Advent, I hope and pray that you are able to balance the busyness of the preparation for Christmas with the call of Advent to prepare by way of prayer, reflection and repentance. It is difficult to maintain a proper spirit of Advent preparation in the midst of Christmas music on the radio, shopping, writing cards and parties and more. I urge you to remain as focused as possible. Please consider coming to our parish Penance Service this Tuesday, December 10, at 7:00 pm in Church. We will have about

eighteen priests here to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance for us that night. This is a great way to celebrate Advent!

As you may or may not be aware, I am approaching the conclusion of my six year term as your Pastor on February 1, 2020. What does this mean? First, it means that the Diocese of Buffalo will be conducting an evaluation of my ministry at St. Greg's. This evaluation is standard procedure for every priest as he concludes his term as a pastor or as a parochial vicar. At this point twenty parishioners have received evaluation forms to be completed and mailed directly to the Priest Personnel office. The parishioners who received the evaluation forms were selected by our parish trustees per the Diocesan guideline. I thank our parish trustees, Christie Thein and Tom Vacanti, for all of their work on this process and for all they do weekly for us at St. Greg's. I also thank all those who have taken on the responsibility of participating in this important evaluation process for the Diocese.

To my knowledge, the evaluation forms are due by the middle of the month of December. It is also my understanding that a member of the Priest's Personnel Board will read and assess all of the evaluations and formulate a report which will be presented to Bishop Malone and reviewed with me. Having outlined the process, the question may still remain: "What does this mean?" A pastor who completes his first term of six years is eligible for a second, six

year term as pastor of the same parish. Although pastors are often renewed for another term, it is not guaranteed. At this point in the process I cannot give you a clear or firm answer to the question. I do not know our Bishop's thoughts on my remaining at St. Greg's or pursuing another ministry, nor do I know the recommendations from members of the Priest Personnel Board. Although I am very happy and honored to continue my ministry at St. Gregory's, I am also looking forward to receiving the evaluation report from our parishioners in order to make an informed decision on my part as to what is best for St. Gregory's and for me. I am sharing this information with you in an effort to remain transparent regarding the administration of our parish family. This is a very standard process and I will keep you informed as we progress through it. It is also a natural time for me to personally review and assess my overall ministry and especially as pastor of St. Greg's. St. Gregory's has changed over the last six years. Change is difficult, but change is also good. On the positive side, I believe we have accomplished many wonderful things. Among the most visible accomplishments is the renovation of our Church as well as the development of a five year plan for capital maintenance. We are in the process of accomplishing the replacement of all roofs on all of our parish buildings. These projects are all under the direction of our Buildings and Grounds Committee which, I re-established shortly after arriving at St. Greg's. I thank all of the members of this committee for their awesome hard work.

On the spiritual side, I believe that we are strong in our Faith. Our youth ministry has grown and developed exponentially. We now have a vibrant youth ministry for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Graders as well as 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders, in addition to our Life Teen Program for our High School teens. We are blessed to have expanded our youth ministry program to include positions for three full time youth ministers. This is unparalleled in our Diocese and beyond. We have also established a Young Adult Ministry that continues to grow in number and strength.

(Pastor's Article Continued on Page 2)

**THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, IS NOT A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION FOR 2019.**

### **(Pastor's Article Continued)**

They just completed another awesome weekend retreat with over 40 young adults participating. Although some ministries have changed and a few have ended during the last six years, the majority of our eighty-plus ministries are alive and vibrant.

Over these six years we have seen a change in our parish staff. Most notably, we are the only parish in the Diocese to have a full time Director of Evangelization. We are also blessed to have two full time music ministers to give direction to our worship.

As I look to the present moment and our needs, I see a few areas to address. First, is the enrollment in our School and Family Faith Formation programs, as numbers have dropped. On one hand, there are simply fewer children in Western New York. This was brought to our attention on the first day of school when **The Buffalo News** ran an article questioning where all of the kids are on the first day of school. The article statistically outlined the reality that there are simply fewer children in Western New York. That information, along with the fact that we see an increasing number of younger families that do not wish to live a life of faith within the context of "organized religion," poses a challenge for us. Next, we must continue to live through the current crisis of the Church regarding the sexual abuse of minors. I have every confidence that healing will take place for victims; some parishioners who have left the active practice of faith will return and the Diocese will move forward with renewed strength and direction. This will, of course, take time to accomplish. We have all been concerned over a decline in Sunday Mass participation and we need to focus on correcting this trend. Of course there are many reasons for a decline in Church attendance including the scandal, the passing away of long-standing parishioners, people moving out of Western New York, as well as a general decline in people "joining" a church. I sadly state that some have left because of Church doctrine, and some have left simply because of differences with me or other members of the pastoral staff. On the positive side, many have also come forward to join St. Gregory's parish to the point that we have overall netted a few-hundred-family increase in our census.

For now, please pray for the evaluation process. Pray especially for those who are filling out my evaluation forms. Pray for our Bishop and the Priest Personnel Board members as they do their research and make decisions. Please pray for our whole parish family. Finally, I wish to thank you, our parish family, for all that you continually do to live your Faith and to support the work of the Church.

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

## **DAILY ADVENT REFLECTIONS**

Every day during Advent, you can receive an email with a short video from Dynamic Catholic. This is a great way for you to intentionally slow down and prepare your hearts and minds for an amazing Christmas. It's free and easy to sign up. Did we mention, free?

- 1) Google, "bestadventever.com"
- 2) Click on "Best Advent Ever / Advent Reflections 2019 / Dynamic Catholic". You will be redirected to the Home Page.
- 3) Scroll down and click on the blue "Sign Me Up!"
- 4) Complete the requested information.

## **MEMORIALIZE THE NATIVITY SET**

A few years ago St. Greg's purchased a second Nativity set to display in the Church during the Christmas Season. We now have one for the MC and one for the Church. This year we would like to memorialize both sets including the stable for the Church. If you are interested in having a piece or pieces memorialized, please contact Marisa Piazza in the Parish Office at [mpiazza@stgregs.org](mailto:mpiazza@stgregs.org) or 688-5678 ext. 303 by December 9.

### **HOLY FAMILY - \$600 EACH**

Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph

### **ANIMALS - \$300 EACH**

Camel, Donkey, Lamb, Cow

### **ADDITIONAL STATUES**

Shepherd \$350

Angel \$500

Wise Man #1, #2, or #3 \$500 each

### **ADDITIONAL NATIVITY VILLAGER'S: \$250 EACH**

STABLE \$2000 (one stable only)

## **CLASSROOM DEDICATIONS AVAILABLE**

We have classroom dedications available to purchase for \$350 for the remainder of the school year. This year only, those who sponsor a classroom will choose the Patron Saint to dedicate for that room. The Saint will be continued each year for future sponsors. If you are interested in purchasing a dedication, please contact Cindy Reitebach at [dinnerauction@stgregs.org](mailto:dinnerauction@stgregs.org)



Congratulations to the winner of the cash/car raffle! A parishioner or St Greg's has won the raffle and chosen to put it towards a car at Northtown Automotive!



**St. Gregory  
the Great  
School**

**AUG 2**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**2020**

**ST. GREG'S 60TH  
ALUMNI EVENT**

## STUDENT REFLECTION

I have been playing sports for St. Greg's for a long time. Since Kindergarten, I have been playing multiple sports. At the beginning of the year, I was playing volleyball and swim. In volleyball, we finished fourth, and in swim we went undefeated again, marking over five years of being undefeated. Recently the eighth-grade basketball teams have started practicing. The girls' team, my team, has lost just three games in four years, including a year of going undefeated. My team has won the playoffs once, but last year we lost before we could get the finals. In sixth grade, we came in second to Christ the King. We are hoping that we will be able to win this year, to cap off a fun five years of basketball. In the spring I play hockey for the school, as well as lacrosse. For lacrosse, I am a versatile player, as I play defense, attack and goalie. Last year for hockey, the varsity team won our playoffs, with the JV team losing in the finals. I am hoping we will be able to repeat our successes, and we will be champions once again. I thank the Lord for all of our successes and losses.

~ MaryKate Christ, Grade 8



Grade 7 Students: Ally Garbarino, Olivia Mistretta, Anna Ratchuk and Madison Knapp, at Elderwood

### A SEASON OF GRATITUDE:

We are so fortunate to be a part of a community that is truly GREAT. We are thankful for the unwavering commitment our teachers, families and students have for our community. It is humbling to see our students and community grow together in a close-knit, faith-filled, and love-filled family. It is important to show our gratitude for one another and our blessings on a daily basis. Our favorite way to show our gratitude is by giving back to our community. St. Greg's is happy to continue to give back through our weekly visits to Elderwood, Prayer Partners, Response to Love, and so much more.

Thank you for being an integral part to our GREAT family. We are so blessed to have you.

## FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

### FFF Upcoming Events and Information:

**December FFF Outreach:** Christmas Gift Collection

**Christmas Break:** There are **NO Classes** from December 16, 2019 - January 4, 2020. The FFF Office will be closed December 21, 2019 and reopen on Monday, January 6, 2020.

**Classes Resume on the following dates:**

**Generations of Faith Sessions A and B:** Sunday, January 5

**Monday Classes:** January 6

**Generations of Faith Session C:** January 9

**Saturday Classes:** January 11



**Busy FFF Students:** Fifth graders try on priest vestments during the Sacristy Tour with Deacon Paul, and Grade 2 made prayer pillowcases. Second graders practice their prayers, Act of Contrition and making the Sign of the Cross to help them get ready for the Sacrament of First Penance in March.

[www.stgregs.org/familyfaithformation](http://www.stgregs.org/familyfaithformation)



## 2019 Christmas Gift Collection



If you took a Christmas gift tag for our Gift Collection, kindly return wrapped gifts, with gift tag attached\* to the Gathering Room on Saturday, December 14, after Masses, and on Sunday, December 15, **NO LATER THAN 12:00 noon. Please DO NOT leave gifts in the Church vestibule** and please do not bring gifts prior to the collection weekend on Dec. 14 and 15!

\*Gifts being collected for **Response to Love** should be placed in gift bags, rather than being wrapped. Thank you for your generosity



*Of His Fullness we have all had a share ...  
love following upon love. John 1:14,16*



*"The Greatest Gift"*

Please join us on Saturday, December 14 at 9:15 am in the School Gym for the Christmas Pageant!

## CATECHIST'S CORNER

### A CATECHIST'S PRAYER....

"Loving Father, you have called me and I have responded. Here I am, Lord! Through the Holy Spirit, enlighten me with your wisdom; strengthen and guide me so that my life faithfully echoes the Gospel. Grant that I may share it fully with others. May I find the wisdom, support and inspiration that I need to serve you in this important ministry of the Church. Amen." - *Unknown*

## ST. GREG'S CAFÉ

### PIZZA NIGHT!

Need dinner for Family Fun Night? Working late at the office and don't want to cook? Need to schedule a meeting over the dinner hour? Stop by our Café every Wednesday night for our Specialty Pizza Night from 5:30 - 7:30 pm.

### DON'T HAVE TIME FOR BREAKFAST?

Stop in the St. Greg's Café and let us cook for you. Enjoy egg sandwiches, pastries, bagels and Fair Trade organic coffee.

### FORGOT YOUR LUNCH ?

Join us for soup, salads, paninis and delicious sandwiches, or take it back to your office!

## STAY CONNECTED TO ST. GREG'S THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Quick access to the Bulletin; learn about closings, cancellations and updates within the Parish, School, Family Faith Formation or Youth Ministry.



### To download Parish App:

IPHONE USERS TEXT: ParishApp1 to 555888  
ANDROID USERS TEXT: ParishApp2 to 555888  
VISIT YOUR APP STORE: Search WeConnect, Parish App, look for the blue icon above and follow the prompts. See the back of the Bulletin to learn all the ways you can follow St. Greg's on social media.

## FAMILY FUN

The easiest and most convenient is not always the most exciting. Every once in a while it's just plain fun to go the extra mile and take the long road. For a change, why not take your children to a Christmas tree farm and allow them to hunt for the perfect Christmas tree. Remember to take plenty of pics!



Christmas rehearsals for Christmas Eve Midnight Mass will resume on Tuesday, December 3, from 7:00 to 8:00 pm with the regular Adult choir rehearsal from 8:00 to 9:00 pm. The Children's Choir rehearsals will also resume on Tuesday, Dec. 3, at 4:30 pm. Questions? Please email Nancy Erdman at [NErdman@stgregs.org](mailto:NErdman@stgregs.org) or call 688-5678 Ext. 308.

## ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING

ANN MARIE ZON'S NICARAGUAN MISSION WHICH 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.

## ST. GREG'S SCHOOL TURNS 60!!!



St. Gregory the Great School is celebrating 60 years in 2020. In an effort to update our records, if you are a St. Greg's Alum please complete the form below with your contact information. You can return the form to the Parish or School Office or put in next weeks collection. You can also email [alumni@stgregs.org](mailto:alumni@stgregs.org).

ANYONE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE PLANNING COMMITTEE THE NEXT MEETING IS DECEMBER 12 AT 9:00 AM IN GATHERING ROOM 1. IF YOU CAN NOT MAKE THE MEETING BUT WANT TO BE PART OF THE COMMITTEE, PLEASE EMAIL LINDA DOHN (WAGNER) AT [ALUMNI@STGREGS.ORG](mailto:ALUMNI@STGREGS.ORG)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIDEN NAME (IF APPLICABLE): \_\_\_\_\_

YEAR GRADUATED: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

# —SAVE THE DATE—

## St. Nicholas Advent Party

1:30 pm to 3:00 pm

Saturday, December 14

All children ages 12 and under are invited to attend a free St. Nicholas Advent party with their parents, grandparents or guardians.

Crafts ~ Music ~ Pizza  
Refreshments ~ Goody Bags

RSVP via email to [KofCStGregory@gmail.com](mailto:KofCStGregory@gmail.com)  
Please respond with the number of adults and children who will be attending (include ages and grades)

*Ministry Center ~ 100 St. Gregory Court  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
St. Gregory the Great Roman Catholic Parish*

## COME LET US ADORE HIM

This past summer, the Pew Research Center shared the results of a survey that indicates only one-third of U.S. Catholics (31%) believe that “during Mass, the bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Jesus.” If you are interested to learn more about what we truly believe as Catholics or how to gently explain why we believe what we believe about the Eucharist to others, join us either Monday, December 30 @ 6:30 pm or Thursday, January 2 @ 12:30 pm, in the Church. Please bring your Bible. “If we really understood the Mass, we would die of joy.” – St. Jean Vianney.



St. Gregory the Great Parish is excited to launch “FIAT”, a monthly Eucharistic Conference. Please join us for an evening of adoration, faith-filled presentations, powerful music, and prayer ministry. Come with an open heart and mind. Like Mary who said yes to the will of God, be ready for Christ to become incarnate in your life. FIAT is open to everyone and will take place on the second weekend of the month in Church.

# FIAT

## Eucharistic Conference

January 11th

February 8th

March 7th

7:00-9:00 pm



**PLEASE JOIN US!** The 30th Annual National Night of Prayer for Life will take place on **Sunday, December 8, beginning approximately**

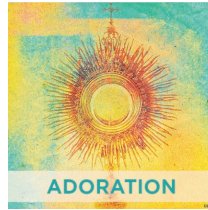
**6:00 pm and continuing until 10:00 pm.** The prayers will be offered in the Church beginning with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The Rosary and Divine Mercy chaplet will be recited on the hour. Members of surrounding parishes also will be joining us.

This event honors the Feasts of the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8) and the Apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego (Dec 9). Everyone is invited to participate, as we ask Our Blessed Mother, under her title Our Lady of Guadalupe, to protect ALL Life, especially our unborn brothers and sisters; defend the Church and its faithful; restore religious freedom; and protect the family. May we make reparation for all the lives lost in this nation to abortion and pray that parents may be conscious of their calling as they share in God's creative power. We also pray that those who have acted against human life experience forgiveness.

**Let us bow down in UNISON across the nation before the Blessed Sacrament in Adoration and Reparation for the sins against the lives of our innocent unborn and helpless ones.**

You may come for any part or for all four hours, or join us via the web at [www.stgregs.org](http://www.stgregs.org).

***"If my people... humble themselves and pray, and seek my presence and turn from their evil ways, I will hear them from heaven and pardon their sins and REVIVE THEIR LAND."** —2 Chronicles 7:12*



## **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

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.

**Please obtain a substitute if you are not able to attend Adoration at your scheduled hour. The Blessed Sacrament cannot be left alone. Please ask a friend or relative to sub for your scheduled adoration hour if you are going to be away anytime during the holiday season. It is a way to evangelize and introduce others to our Adoration Chapel. Thank you.**

**Our Adoration Chapel is in need of the following scheduled Adorers:**

- ◆ **MONDAYS 2:00 - 3:00 am**
- ◆ **WEDNESDAYS 9:00-10:00 pm**
- ◆ **THURSDAYS 2:00- 3:00 am**
- ◆ **THURSDAYS 5:00-6:00 am**
- ◆ **SATURDAYS 10:00-11:00 pm**

**OUR CHAPEL IS OPEN 24 HOURS, 7 DAYS A WEEK.**

## **MARCH FOR LIFE 2020**

Fr. Paul Cygan is hoping to lead a group of St. Gregory's parishioners at this year's March for Life in Washington, DC. Contact him for more information at [pcygan@stgregs.org](mailto:pcygan@stgregs.org). There are information/registration brochures at the entrances to the Church. Please consider being a part of this very important witness to the sanctity of Life!!

## **OPLATKI CHRISTMAS HOSTS**

Oplatki Christmas Hosts are placed at all entrances of the Church. Oplatki is a tradition of sharing bread with your family at Christmas. \$1 donation per Host.

## **JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS**

Please consider becoming an "Angel" and help make a difference in the life of a child in our parish community by making Catholic education a reality. Since 2006 the Angel Wings scholarship program has assisted students attending St. Gregory's School. Scholarships from parishioners or parish organizations benefit qualified students from the parish whose families have difficulty meeting tuition and related costs to attend our parish school but may not qualify for parish tuition assistance. **Your donation will directly offset tuition for a child or family at our school.** Scholarship award decisions will be made by a small committee. Confidentiality of donors and recipients will be maintained, although all recipients will anonymously send notes or cards to their "Angel" at least twice during the school year to let them know how their year is progressing. This is a wonderful way to support Catholic education and positively touch a child in our parish with your generosity. We welcome your donations in any amount starting at \$250. **"The notes from the recipients are true treasures: become an Angel, you'll love it!"** For more information please call Teri Donner at 632-1920.

*This is the best investment you can make...that in the life of a child.*



## MINISTRY UPDATES

### LADIES OF LORD

We will have our 'Regular' meeting on December 12 in the Gathering Rooms at 7:00 pm. Please bring cookies for our Fellowship table on that date.

Our Christmas party is December 14 at Brookfield Country Club beginning at 11:00 am with a Chinese auction and 50/50 split.

### SENIOR CITIZENS

December 16 is our Annual Christmas Luncheon at Russell's Steak House. The cost for members is \$33.00 and \$35.00 for a guest prior to December 9. Lunch will be served at 1:00 pm. Please sign up and bring payment to our next meeting. Anyone over 55 years of age may attend.

### EVENING PRAYER "VESPERS"

Join us for Evening Prayer every Tuesday at 6:30 pm in the Church. Vespers, also called Evening Prayer, gives thanks for the day just past and makes an evening sacrifice of praise to God. For information contact Jeff Criden at 207-4878.

### ADULT MISSION TRIP – JULY 2020

*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 18-25, 2020. If you are interested, please plan on attending an informational meeting on Wednesday, January 8, at 6:30 pm in Gathering Room 2. Can't make the meeting? Look for mission trip participants in the vestibules after all Masses January 11 and 12, or contact Elizabeth Astridge at [stgregsmissiontrip@gmail.com](mailto:stgregsmissiontrip@gmail.com).

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

### SVDP MONTHLY MEETING

SVDP will only host one meeting in the month of December. The meeting will be on Thursday, December 12, at 6:30 pm in the Ministry Center Room 2.

## PARISH ACTIVITY CALENDAR

### Sunday, December 8

- 1:30 pm Baptisms
- 3:15 pm Worship Ensemble Rehearsal (*Church*)
- 5:30 pm Life Teen (*MC Gym, Basement, Café*)

### Monday, December 9

- 6:00 pm SWAT (*MC Basement*)
- 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop Committee Mtg. (*MC 3*)

### Tuesday, December 10

- 4:30 pm Parish Children's Choir Practice (*GR 2*)
- 6:00 pm MOMS Ministry Assisi/Rome Mtg. (*GR 1*)
- 6:30 pm Troop 440 Patrol Leader Council Mtg. (*MC 3*)
- 7:00 pm Christmas Choir Rehearsal (*GR 2*)
- 7:00 pm AMPED (*MC Café*)
- 7:00 pm Parish Advent Penance Service (*Church*)
- 7:30 pm BSA Troop 444 Mtg. (*MC Gym*)
- 8:00 pm (11:00 Mass) Adult Choir Rehearsal (*GR 2*)

### Wednesday, December 11

- 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (*MC Gym*)
- 7:00 pm RCIA (*School Classroom #802*)
- 7:00 pm Men of God Meeting (*GR 2*)
- 7:00 pm Empowered In Christ (*MC Basement*)

### Thursday, December 12

- 10:00 am MOMS Playgroup (*MC Basement*)
- 6:30 pm EDGE (*MC Gym, Foyer, Basement*)
- 6:30 pm SVDP Meeting (*MC 2*)
- 7:00pm Ladies of the Lord (*GR 1 & 2*)

### Friday, December 13

- 12:00pm Middle School Mayhem (*MC 1 & 2, Gym, Basement, Foyer and Café*)
- 5:00 pm MOMS Meeting (*GR 1 & 2*)
- 6:00 pm Scouts Meeting (*MC 2*)

### Saturday, December 14

### Sunday, December 15

- 1:30 pm Baptisms
- 3:15 pm Worship Ensemble Rehearsal (*Church*)
- 5:30 pm Life Teen (*MC Foyer, Gym, Basement, Café*)

## ReSet

## Your Mornings with MOMS in the Year of Healing

### MOMS

## 18TH ANNUAL ADVENT SOCIAL St. Greg's Gathering Rooms Friday, December 13, at 6:30 pm



## MASS SCHEDULE

### Saturday, December 7

#### Vigil Masses

- 4:00 pm Lorraine & Henry Wojtowicz  
by Gail Wojtowicz
- 5:30 pm Rose & Earl Rinaldo  
by Rinaldo & Brand Families  
Joanne West by West & Brand Families

### Sunday, December 8– Second Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 am Ginger Kothen by Mary Nigam
- 9:30 am Norman Wittig by, Son, Roger
- 11:00 am Ann Marie Bene by Richard Bene  
Dorothy M. Olejniczak  
by Olejniczak Family & Friends
- 12:30 pm Dr. Marcos B. Gallego (Anniversary)  
by Family  
Candace Sanders by Capozzi Family
- 1:30 pm Baptisms
- 4:30 pm Gerri De Lac by Son, Eric De Lac  
Concepcion Endab by Yu Family

### Monday, December 9– Immaculate Conception (Not A Holy Day of Obligation)

- 7:00 am Paul Haggerty  
by Mike & Tammy Bender
- 8:00 am Richard J. Vivacqua  
by Wife, Mary Kate Vivacqua
- 12:00 pm Rose Hoelscher  
by Carol & Russell Monafa  
Sandra & Michael Wojtowicz  
by Mom, Mary Ann

### Tuesday, December 10

- 7:00 am Rev. Msgr. Robert P. McNamara  
(Anniversary) by Priests of  
St. Greg's
- 8:00 am Bruce J. Cusenz MD  
by Felix & Lorraine Gramza
- 12:00 pm Marie Leman (Living)  
By Carmelina Misericola

### Wednesday, December 11

- 7:00 am Geraldine Verdi by McCann Family
- 8:00 am Dr. Thomas Hassenfratz  
by Donna Hassenfratz
- 12:00 pm Dennis Salemi by Lucille Christopher  
Dr. George Barrios  
(Wedding Anniversary) by Barrios Family

### Thursday, December 12– Our Lady of Guadalupe

- 7:00 am Parishioners of St. Gregory the Great  
Roselyn M. Murphy (Anniversary)  
by Family
- 8:00 am Theresa A. DiAngelo  
by Debbie & Ken Kistner  
**(School Mass)**
- 12:00 pm Richard Levea by Wife  
Joseph Lakatos by Wife & Family

### Friday, December 13– St. Lucy

- 7:00 am John Ducoli by Marai Cimato
- 8:00 am Marie Smith by Smith & Tepas Families
- 12:00 pm Honor of St. Lucy  
by Angelo & Josephine Cammilleri  
David Graczyk  
by Tim & Ann Marie Spellman

### Saturday, December 14– St. John of the Cross

- 8:00 am Dottie Hoffman by Dad, Julie, Alan,  
A.J. & Stephen

#### Vigil Masses

- 4:00 pm Charles Oliver by Wife, Karen  
Sue Wagle (Living) by Joe & Annie Deck
- 5:30 pm Edward Schill Shettler by Terry & Family

### Sunday, December 15– Third Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 am Francis M. Murphy (Anniversary) by Family  
Diane Egger by Husband, George & Family
- 9:30 am Joseph Kloch  
by Mr. & Mrs. James Smyczynski  
Anthony F. LoBue (Birthday)  
by Daughter, Rose
- 11:00 am Guy L. Derr III  
by Mother, Joan Maloney Derr III  
Clare Wesolowski  
by Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bartlett  
& Grace Bartlett
- 12:30 pm Paul A. Spinley by Mary Accordino
- 1:30 pm Baptisms
- 4:30 pm Donald Collins II by Mom & Dad

### HOST

#### REMEMBRANCE

Gary F. Papa by Mother & Family

#### CANDLE REMEMBRANCE

Ludwika Szrajber by Brenda Pitirri  
Steffan Family by B. Steffan

### DECEASED

Carolyn M. Fabian  
Doris E. Duffey  
Joseph A. Dunn  
Scott Marcus  
Janet Shanahan



# St. Gregory the Great

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

### PARISH OFFICE

200 St. Gregory Court; 688-5678 Fax: 688-2315

#### PASTOR

Fr. Leon J. Biernat; lbiernat@stgregs.org

#### PAROCHIAL VICARS

Msgr. Thomas Maloney (305);

FatherThomas@stgregs.org

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

Fr. Moses Ikuelogbon (310); FrMoses@stgregs.org

#### PERMANENT DEACONS

Deacon Michael G. Bochiechio

Deacon Paul Walter; PWalter@stgregs.org

#### PASTORAL YEAR SEMINARIAN

Joseph Tokasz jtokasz@stgregs.org

#### PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Sr. Shawn Czyzycki (335); sczyzycki@stgregs.org

#### DIRECTOR OF EVANGELIZATION

Brian Ruh (313); bruh@stgregs.org

#### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

Nancy Erdman (308); nerdman@stgregs.org

#### ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

Michael Cygan (340) mcygan@stgregs.org

#### DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Marisa Piazza (303); mpiazza@stgregs.org

#### YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Adam Jarosz - College & Young Adult (316);

ajarosz@stgregs.org

Nicole Janecek - Middle School (341);

njanecek@stgregs.org

#### PARISH NURSE

Lee Zack - (339); lzack@stgregs.org

**TRUSTEES:** Christie Thein, Thomas Vacanti

### SCHOOL OFFICE

250 St. Gregory Court 688-5323 Fax: 688-6629

#### PRINCIPAL

Julie Gajewski (350); jgajewski@stgregs.org

**SCHOOL BOARD** - schoolboard@stgregs.org

Fr. Leon J. Biernat, Chairman; lbiernat@stgregs.org

#### FAMILY FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

250 St. Gregory Court 688-5760 Fax: 639-8251

Office Hours are Monday - Friday from 9:00 am -

2:00 pm and when classes are in session.

#### DIRECTOR

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

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

#### MONDAY - FRIDAY

8:30 am - 4:00 pm

#### SATURDAY

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

#### SUNDAY - CLOSED

### FORMED

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Gregory the Great Parish code: **D7B6CQ**

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up for a free subscription to FORMED.org with great movies, audios, ebooks, and Bible studies. Go to [www.FORMED.org](http://www.FORMED.org). Enter parish access code **7B6CQ** in the box and enjoy!

### MASS SCHEDULE

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

**SATURDAY:** 4:00 pm and 5:30 pm

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

**HOLY DAYS:** As listed in the Bulletin.

**For those who are unable to join us, all Masses can be viewed on our website.**

### CATHOLIC STORE AND CAFE

**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, 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. 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.

**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** – Administered the first Saturday of each month immediately following the 5:30 pm Mass.

### 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*

### FOLLOW ST. GREGORY THE GREAT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Receive daily spiritual quotes, learn about closings, cancellations and updates within the Parish, School, Family Faith Formation or Youth Ministry.

#### To download Parish App:

IPHONE USERS TEXT: ParishApp1 to 555888

ANDROID USERS TEXT: ParishApp2 to 555888

VISIT YOUR APP STORE: Search WeConnect, Parish App, look for the blue icon above and follow the prompts.



- ◇ Follow St. Gregory the Great Parish, School, Family Faith Formation and Youth Ministry on Facebook!
- ◇ Follow the Parish on Twitter @StGregsBuffalo
- ◇ Follow Youth Ministry on Twitter, and Instagram @stgregsyongadults

