

SAINT GREGORY THE GREAT

Divine Mercy Sunday
April 7 & 8, 2018



From the Desk of the Pastor

My dear parish family, this Sunday we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. This Sunday we really focus on our call to receive God's Mercy as a free gift. This gift of His Divine Mercy though comes with the responsibility to respond to our Lord. How do you respond to God's initiation of a relationship of love and mercy?

I am sure you have heard the comment made that "freedom isn't free." This comment reminds each citizen of this great nation that our freedom doesn't mean we can do whatever we wish to do, but it reminds us of our own personal responsibility to contribute to our society and to live correctly. This statement does not mean that we simply take and receive, but we must also contribute. As citizens we are called to sacrifice, serve and abide within an order to our society.

I would like to take that thought to our understanding of God's Mercy as a free gift. God's Mercy is a free gift given to us through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. But this free gift isn't truly free. It calls us to freely respond in love to Jesus and to sacrifice, serve and abide within an order of the Gospel. If we really accept God's mercy and understand its meaning, we would want to do nothing else other than love God, love His commands and be merciful to others. If you have ever owed a large sum of money to someone or if you had hurt someone in some big way and they forgave the debt or forgave your hurt you know you were filled with a joy beyond words, as well as a sense of relief. This type of debt relief and forgiveness creates exuberance within. I trust you would be filled with exuberant excitement and love for that person and desire to be with them as much as possible. You would want to help them or do something for them in return. This is Divine Mercy and our response. God's perfect mercy, once understood and accepted into the core of our lives, creates this joy and relief to the point that we want to do anything we can to serve the Lord and be a living example of mercy in the world today.

This Divine Mercy Sunday I encourage you to truly reflect on God's Mercy in your life. Have you really accepted it into your mind, heart and soul? Has this deep-rooted knowledge of God's Mercy caused a change within you? Do you have an exuberant love for Jesus that you would not think of doing anything else but be His disciple, His follower in the world today?

This weekend, I would like to update you on Upon This Rock. As you will recall, Upon This Rock was the Diocesan campaign that we were invited to participate in a couple years ago. Sixty-five percent of the money raised goes towards various Diocesan efforts and thirty-five percent of what is collected from the paid pledges from St. Gregory's returns to St. Gregory's for our use as outlined in the campaign literature. The total pledges made from St. Gregory the Great parishioners totaled approximately \$4.74 million. Some of these pledges are tied to people's estate planning and will not be realized hopefully for many, many, many years. To date we have received a total of \$516,039.60 from parishioners paying off their Upon This Rock pledges. We are most thankful for your generosity.

So what are we doing with this money? As you know from the campaign, this money needs to be spent on capital work and cannot be used for general or routine bills. (continued on page 2)

Check out page 5 for Holy Week and Easter photos

Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration

St. Gregory's is holding its 10th Divine Mercy celebration on April 8, from 2:00-3:00pm, in Church, with Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, music and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. A reception with refreshments will follow in the Gathering Room by The Ladies of the Lord/Disciples of Divine Mercy.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CLOTHING DRIVE

The Annual Spring Clothing Drive will be held next Sunday, April 15. Trucks will be available in the parking lot near the Ministry Center from 8:00 am - 6:00 pm. Receipts for tax purposes will be available. CLOTHES ONLY.

PARISH SOCIAL/NEW PARISHIONER WELCOME

All parishioners and new families are invited to join us for refreshments next Sunday, April 15, after 9:30am Mass, in the Gathering Rooms. If you have questions about our Faith or would like to register with the Parish, please join us.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon. April 9: Isaiah 7:10-14, 8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38

Tues. April 10: Acts of the Apostles 4:32-37; John 3:7b-15

Wed. April 11: Acts of the Apostles 5:17-26; John 3:16-21

Thurs. April 12: Acts of the Apostles 5:27-33; John 3:31-36

Fri. April 13: Acts of the Apostles 5:34-42; John 6:1-15

Sat. April 14: Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7; John: 6:16-21

Sun. April 15: Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15, 17-19 (47B); 1 John 2:1-5a; Luke 24:35-48

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Following the example of Jesus

Reading I Acts 4:32-35 (life of the Christians)
Reading II 1 John 5:1-6 (belief in Jesus Christ)
Gospel John 20:19-31 (appearance to the disciples)
Passage Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul; no one claimed private ownership of any possessions; everything they owned was held in common. (Acts 4:32)

Adult: *What could you do this week to inspire your family to resemble the early Christians more closely?*

Child: *What could you and your family do to help others who are in need?*

VOCATION VIEW

It is an unspeakable blessing that from our Lord flows boundless mercy, a mercy that forgives even the deadliest of sins. We should never forget this or take it for granted. Can God be calling you to make His mercy known? 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!

CATHOLIC CHARITIES PARISH UPDATE: \$510,591.37 COLLECTED, 74% OF OUR GOAL

Our parish goal for Catholic Charities is \$693,000. To donate, please mail your contribution to the Parish Office or donate online at www.cwny.org. Thank you for your continued support of the **2018 Appeal!**

Diocesan Victim Assistance Phone Number

Last weekend at all Masses our priests read-aloud a letter from Bishop Malone regarding the revelation of clerical abuse in the Diocese. Bishop Malone urges anyone to come forward to law enforcement and the Diocese so we can help you in any way. The Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator is Jackie Joy and she can be reached at (716) 895-3010.

From the Desk of the Pastor

(continued from page 1) As you recall, we stated a need to renovate the sanctuary, install a Baptismal font and do needed repairs and refinishing of our benches, in addition to providing more meeting room space.

At this time, I am pleased to tell you that in the coming weeks we will install our new projection system in our Church and Ministry Center. Some of the money for this project came from the "Fund-An-Item" from the Parish Auction last November. The majority of the money needed to install this equipment and upgrade our electrical system will come from the Upon This Rock proceeds. In addition to this signed contract, we are currently gathering bids for the refinishing of the pew and replacement of the kneelers. Many of the kneelers are beyond repair and are regularly breaking. These kneelers are the original kneelers for the Church and were "refitted" almost twenty years ago to meet the re-configuration of the Church to be in the round, rather than all straight benches. It has also come to our attention that our terrazzo floor is in need of repair and sealing. There are many little holes in the floor that need to be addressed. We are currently getting bids for these projects and I will keep you posted as we move forward with this work.

Please know that our Buildings and Grounds Committee and many members of our parish staff are working very hard on these projects. We are also working closely with the Diocesan Buildings and Properties Department and securing a minimum of three bids for all work and receiving all of the required approvals for capital work from the Diocese of Buffalo. Unfortunately, the process takes longer than we would like. I suppose it is no different than our homes. Any project we undertake at home usually results in more work than we first imagined. The same is true for our parish home, as we have many more hands in the decision mix.

Finally, I am most grateful to state that we will be installing a new Baptismal Font. As you know, the old font was removed prior to my arrival as pastor. I am told that it regularly leaked and had other issues rendering it unusable. We have been using a glass punch bowl on a wooden cart. Since this is a Sacrament of the Church and the way one enters the Church, it is fitting to have a font worthy of the dignity of the Sacrament. This new Baptismal Font will be placed in the front of the Church before the side altar of our Blessed Mother Mary. The movable chairs that are currently there will be reduced in number and reconfigured. I will give you more information on this project as May approaches.

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

Sacramental Information

2018 Confirmation Rehearsal:

This year, there will be only ONE **Confirmation Rehearsal**, to be held on Tuesday, April 10, at 6:30pm in the Church. **Confirmation Rehearsal** should be attended by the candidate and their sponsor. A parent can stand in for out of town sponsors so that they can provide direction for the sponsor prior to Confirmation night.

2018 Confirmation Dates have been scheduled:

Tuesday, April 17, and Thursday, April 19, at 7:00pm in the Church. Letters and emails were sent to candidates with their assigned date of Confirmation.

Any questions, please contact Arlene Meyerhofer at ameyerhofer@stgregs.org or call 688-5760.

Confirmation 2019 and 2020

ATTENTION ALL Catholic and Public Schools Parents who currently have a student in Grade 8 and 9:

Please attend the appropriate **Parent Meetings to Register for Confirmation:**

▪ **Incoming Gr 10** (Current Gr 9 students)
Register **In Person** on Tuesday, May 15, at 7:00pm **OR** on Saturday, May 19, at 10:30am in the School Cafeteria.

▪ **Incoming Gr 9** (Current Gr 8 students)
Register **In Person** on Thursday, May 17, at 7:00pm **OR** on Saturday, May 19, at 9:00am in the School Cafeteria.

Catholic School students: Faith Formation is completed at a Catholic High School during Grade 9. However, **students MUST register with our program** to ensure they will receive all Confirmation related notifications including information required for service hours and Confirmation retreats.

Public School Students: In addition to registering your child for Confirmation, this meeting will also cover important information for High School students (in the Weekly Program, Monthly (GOF) and the HS Summer Programs).

Registration for the HS Summer Program will be available during the Parent Meeting, so please be prepared to make a registration payment. See FFF section in the bulletin for full Registration Schedule for other high school FFF programs.

Ladies of The Lord...

... will meet Thursday, April 12, 7:00 pm, in the Gathering Rooms to say the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet. Come and see how the Holy Spirit directs us in our lives. All are welcome.

Catechist's Corner

The role of a catechist is to teach our faith by word and example.



“As catechists, we are not in it for the income; we are in it for the outcome.” - Unknown

From a Junior high student:

“...Thank you Mr. Pastwick for teaching us about God. I want to thank you because I really didn't pay attention in Church until you would ask questions and I wanted to answer them and you encouraged me.



If you're interested in learning more about becoming a catechist or a classroom aide in the Family Faith Formation program, please call Joan Rischmiller at 688-

Senior Citizens

April 9, 1:00 pm - Monthly Meeting in the Ministry Center. Officer Trooper Campanella will speak on scams directed to seniors and how to recognize them. Refreshments will be served. Brian Carrier will be available to replace watch batteries.

April 10, *Del LAGO* Casino, \$26 per person, \$25/Slot Dollars and free lunch buffet. **Payment due with reservation.** Bus departs Ministry Center at 8:00 am, returns 6:00 pm. Valid Government Photo ID required.

June 18, *Our All American City Tour*, \$73 per person, 3 hour Buffalo Creek Casino with \$15 free slot play, lunch at Pearl Street Grill, menu choice of CharGrilled Chicken, Fish & Chips or Pot Roast. 90 minute double-deck bus tour of Canalside, Outer Harbor, Erie Canal, Erie Basin Marina and more. Bus departs Ministry Center at 9:30 am returning at 5:30 pm. For travel reservations/information, call Nancy at 631-5313.

MOMS: Meet the Catholic Doctors!

Friday, April 20, 9:00 - 11:00am in the Gathering Rooms.

All moms welcome to attend this exciting question & answer panel discussion of four moms who are local Catholic pediatricians. Never been to MOMS? Now is a great time to join us. Come as you are. Free childcare by reservation only. Email ltmacnamara@gmail.com for childcare. Any questions about MOMS email stgregsmoms@gmail.com.

Men's Golf League

The Men's Golf League is looking for both full-time team members as well as substitutes for the Wednesday evening league. You don't have to be a great golfer – just a good guy looking to share in some fun and relaxation with the group. For information call Mike Bender at 689-0510.

1500 CLUB RAFFLE

Prizes totaling \$37,500 awarded!

Don't miss out on your chance to win **one or more of the remaining 236 cash prizes** including the **Grand Prize of \$10,000!**

Chances of winning are approximately 1 in 6!

St. Gregory's Home School Association 1500 Club Raffle Ticket Request – April 14, 2018
(Drop in collection basket or to the Parish Office)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone number: _____

Number of tickets requested (\$50 each, admits 2 over age 21): _____ Amount enclosed: _____

School family's name, if different than above: _____

(Your official ticket will be sent to the address listed above by return mail. Checks payable to St. Gregory the Great)

Join us in the Ministry Center on Saturday, April 14, from 6:30 – 9:00pm for the Grand Drawing Celebration!
Each ticket purchased admits two adults over 21 for an evening of food, drinks and fun, but...

Winners Need Not Be Present to Win.

Your participation helps our largest HSA-sponsored event support our Catholic school.

May God continue to bless you for your generosity.

Questions? Email: 1500club@stgregs.org

Diocesan Task Force on the Study of Liturgies

Bishop Malone and his Presbyteral Council are currently looking into ways to promote both the spiritual welfare of priests and the liturgical life of each parish. They are particularly concerned about the number and quality of Masses celebrated at each parish. With a declining number of priests, we should not expect priests to celebrate more liturgies on a weekend than are needed; and, fewer Masses with larger attendance would encourage more vibrant celebrations of the Eucharist.

The Bishop is asking all parishes to engage in a collaborate effort to look at Mass schedules and Mass attendance. This will be coordinated at the Vicariate level with suggestions to be sent to a Diocesan Task Force that has been established by the Bishop. Engagement in this process at the parish level will be vital in creating a revised and coordinated Vicariate Mass schedule that will promote the physical and spiritual well-being of priests as well as provide quality liturgical celebrations in each parish.



Music Ministry

Rehearsals

Children Choir (Grades 2-8)

Tuesday, April 10, at 4:30pm
The children will be singing
at the 9:30 am Mass on Sunday, April 22.

Adult Choir for 11:00am Mass

7:00pm, Tuesday, April 10, in GR 2

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



THINKING ABOUT COMING BACK TO THE CHURCH?

Has it been awhile since you have been part of a faith community? Are you sensing God's prompting to reconnect with the Church? We invite you to join us on Sunday, April 15, after the 9:30am Mass for refreshments in the Gathering Rooms to ask questions and get to know more about our parish faith community. Staff members and parishioners will be present to share information about the parish. There will also be an opportunity to register with our parish if desired. All are welcome!

St. Greg's Playgroup

All moms and tots ages birth through 5 are invited to join the St. Greg's Playgroup for a playdate on Friday, April 13th from 9:30am to 11:30am in the Ministry Center playroom. A great chance for Catholic moms and their little ones alike to get to know each other! Contact Mary Sendlak at marykrowley@yahoo.com for more information. Last playdate for 2018 will be May 11.

MEN OF GOD

Men of God (MOG) is a Spirituality Group for Men 21 years and over that meets monthly for fellowship, praying the Rosary, and group discussion. Our next meeting is on **Wednesday, April 18, from 7:00-9:00 pm in Gathering Room 2**. Please bring a friend, a brother, a dad, an uncle or cousin for this special night. For more information, contact Ray Geska at 541-8345 or raygeska@yahoo.com, or Jeff Criden at 207-4878 or jeffrcrd@aol.com.

SVDP FURNITURE/APPLIANCE COLLECTION

Our last furniture pickup date resumes on **Saturday, April 14**. If you have any of the following items, we ask that you contact us at 688-5678, ext. 423 and leave a message with your contact information. We will call you to make arrangements. We can only pick up furniture items in St. Gregory's geographic area and all furniture and appliances must be located in the garage or covered porch. Please refer to the list of what we are able to accept and note all appliances must work and furniture must be in good condition.

Furniture: Couches, Chairs, Kitchen Tables & Chairs, Dressers, Coffee & End Tables, Bed Frames (we cannot accept mattresses & box springs and baby cribs).

Appliances: Gas Stoves (must work and be disconnected), Refrigerators (must be plugged in and cool at pickup), Microwaves. (We cannot accept electric stoves or cooktops, or older CRT type TV sets.)

Holy Week and Easter 2018



Family Faith Formation

Open Monday - Friday, 9:00am - 2:00 pm and during classes.

FFF Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Monday, April 9

7:00 pm Gr 5 - 8 Pizza Party for Catholic Charities
(Classrooms)

2018-2019 FFF Registration Schedule:

High School Summer Program (formerly SPLASH)

Class dates: June 25 - 29, 9 am- 4 pm. For program details, go to www.stgregs.org/summerhighschool/

Registration dates for the HS Summer Program:

▪ **Incoming Gr 10** (Current Gr 9 students)

Register **In Person** on Tuesday, May 15, at 7:00 pm **OR** on Saturday, May 19, at 10:30 am in the School Caf.

▪ **Incoming Gr 9** (Current Gr 8 students)

Register **In Person** on Thursday, May 17 at 7:00 pm **OR** on Saturday, May 19 at 9:00 am in the School Cafeteria.

Generations of Faith (Monthly FFF Program, Gr 1-10)

Registration for All Sessions (A, B and C) is on

Monday, May 21, 2018 at 7:00 pm. **Online Registration Only.** Each session will close at 50 Families. For program details, go to www.stgregs.org/generations-faith/

Disciple Camp (Summer FFF Program, Gr 5-8)

Register **In Person Only** (parent and student must attend) in the School Cafeteria on Saturday, June 2 at 9:00 am **OR** on Monday, June 11 at 7:00 pm.

Meetings and registration will last approx. 35 minutes.

For program details and Registration form go to

www.stgregs.org/disciple-camp-5/

Weekly FFF Program (Gr 1-10)

Registration begins on Wednesday June 1, 2018

Register Online or In Person. For program details,

go to www.stgregs.org/program-options/

then select your child's grade level.

Little Cherubs (Preschool, Ages 3 - 5)

Weekly Program , September 2018 - April 2019

Registration begins on Wednesday June 1, 2018

Register Online or In Person. For program details, go to

www.stgregs.org/pre-school/

Vacation Bible School (Pre K*- Gr 4 in Sept 2018)

*child must be 3 years old by Dec. 2017

Registration begins on Monday, May 14, and closes on

June 22. Register Online or In Person. For program details,

go to www.stgregs.org/vacation-bible-school/

For FFF Program Registration, go to

www.stgregs.org/register-now/ Find the program of your choice and depending on the program, you will either be able to download a form to bring to the registration meeting, **OR** you will see a link to register online. Links will be live on the dates as per the registration schedule.

St. Greg's School

Kindergarten Registration

We accept registrations from **9:00am-1:00pm** in the School. **At the time of registration, parents MUST present the following information:**

Birth certificate copy (Child must be 5 years old by 12/1/2018) Baptismal Certificate copy & **Immunization Record**

NEW FAMILIES: \$150 non-refundable deposit at time of registration

...plus \$100.00 non-refundable tuition deposit will be due at time of screening

Cougars Corner

To be an educator in the 21st century is an exciting, yet challenging time. The opportunities and possibilities we have in the classroom, largely due to technology, are endless. It is no secret that individuals of all ages and generations are spending more time in front of their computer and phone screens than ever before. While technology and smartphones offer unlimited convenience and possibilities, face to face contact and communication is becoming less common. As communication is a crucial life skill, we as educators are placing more and more emphasis on discussion, and communication in the classroom.

Here at St. Gregory's one of the components of our curriculum is classroom discussion and conversation between teachers and students as well as peer to peer. Being able to effectively communicate about a range of topics and ideas is an essential skill we aim to instill in all of our students. We encourage and provide opportunities for students to converse with *all of their peers and teachers.* *We open communication in our classrooms which encourages students to pose questions and reflect on content, texts, faith, and even current events.* *This offers students the opportunity to communicate with a diverse group of individuals about a range of topics and ideas. Our goal is to equip students with valuable leadership and interpersonal skills which will allow them the opportunity to communicate effectively and problem solve efficiently in the future.*

Ashley McAuley

7th and 8th Grade Reading Teacher

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

Young Women's Conference: "Be Purely You"

All girls Grades 8 - 12 are welcome to join us for a fun-filled day of inspiring workshops! Learn about colors and fashion styles that make you look and feel your best; discover your unique and special gifts as a daughter of the King; learn to recognize the strength of authentic femininity!

Saturday, April 28, 8:00am – 3:00 pm at St. Gregory the Great Parish Ministry Center. Register online at www.stgregs.org, \$20 before April 22 or \$25 at the door. Registration fee includes a delicious and nutritious lunch provided by Core Life Eatery. For more information, call Lori at 716-866-2373.

"ST. GREGORY TWELVE" NOMINATIONS

Each year we recognize and express our appreciation of twelve individuals, couples or families who have contributed to our parish life and ministries. If you know of parishioners whose voluntary efforts have enhanced our Parish Community, please nominate them for this award which will be acknowledged at Mass on May 20. We look forward to having the opportunity to honor many in our Parish who unselfishly donate their time/abilities to fulfill our Parish Mission. Nomination forms are available in the Parish Office, to be returned to Jo by Friday, April 13.

Youth & Young Adult Ministry

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

Middle School

Edge Nights: April 12, 19, 26; 6:30 - 8:30pm

Middle-School Retreat, May 4-6

We are returning to Camp Turner for our second-ever Middle-School Retreat! Join us for an unforgettable weekend of fun, friends and faith! Spots are limited so contact Nicole ASAP to reserve your spot for the Middle-School event of the year!

High School

Life Teen: April 8, 22; 5:30 - 7:30pm

High-School Retreat: April 13-15

It's finally here! The annual High-School retreat! This year we're going to Camp Hickory Hill, complete with a game room, gym and a rock wall for anyone feeling especially adventurous! Book your spot today for the weekend of a lifetime!

SWAT Team: April 10, 17, 24; 7:00 - 8:30pm

Spiritual Weapons And Tactics team is our new prayer group that will meet every Tuesday in the Ministry Center Basement. This group is open to all high-schoolers. If you are looking for something that will help you dive deeper into your faith this is for you! Snacks will be provided.

Young Adult Ministry (18 - 30something)

College Oasis Magazine:

Sign up for the online magazine for college students both home and away for original content to keep you fresh throughout the semester. If you have any questions about College Ministry, contact Adam!

New Website and Social Media:

Check out the new website, complete with a fantastic section for young adults. Includes upcoming events, great recommendations for media and ways to serve at stgregsYM.org! Plus, follow us on our new Instagram account just for this age group for fresh content!

Mass and Lunch: Wednesdays at 12:00pm

Take a break during your day and join us at noon for daily Mass on Wednesdays. If you have time after, stop over to the Café for a drink or a bite to eat.

Women's Bible Study: Wednesdays at 7:00pm

Our groundbreaking new Women's Bible Study meets every Wednesday at 7:00pm in Sr. Maureen's Room (upstairs) in the Ministry Center. If you are looking for a dynamic community of Catholic women living the Faith, this is the place for you!

Trivia Night: April 9 at 6:30 - 8:30pm

Looking for a fun night out on the town with a great community of young adults? Join us at the Anchor Bar on Maple Road for Trivia Night! No matter your level of trivia expertise, this promises to be a fantastic night!

Respect Life



On this Divine Mercy Sunday, remember nothing is beyond the mercy of God. If you or someone you know is struggling with the aftermath of an abortion, there is help. Project Rachel is a network that includes priests, mental health professionals and others who provide one-on-one assistance to those in need of healing. A local Project Rachel program is offered through the Diocese of Buffalo. **You will receive free, nonjudgmental, confidential information by calling the hotline at (716) 847-2211.**

From the Diocesan website: "This [Project Rachel] experience, like the Sacrament it includes, is *sensitive, private and confidential*...The Project Rachel journey to wholeness helps you cope with the past through the eyes of faith, opens you to receive forgiveness and the healing grace of God, and allows you to be at peace with yourself, your unborn child, your family, your Church and God. Men, too, suffer greatly in the aftermath of abortion. They are fathers who lost a child. They can also find understanding, forgiveness, healing and wholeness through the Church's ministry of Project Rachel.

To begin your journey to forgiveness and reconciliation, we encourage you to call or write for private counseling. We also provide counseling and services for those who have suffered a miscarriage, stillborn or death of a very young child.

There is hope after an abortion. It's normal to grieve a pregnancy loss, including the loss of a child by abortion. It can form a hole in one's heart, a hole so deep that sometimes it seems nothing can fill the empty spaces. We care. Let us help you. "

"God is always waiting for us, He never grows tired. Jesus shows us this merciful patience of God so that we can regain confidence and hope — always!"

— Pope Francis

"SPIRITUAL SPINS & GRINS"

Ground Rules for Group Discussion

- ◆ Speak clearly, briefly and to the point.
- ◆ Respect the opinion and feelings of others.
- ◆ Listen carefully; do not interrupt.
- ◆ Let one person speak at a time.
- ◆ Ask questions when something isn't clear.
- ◆ Do nothing to damage another's self esteem.
- ◆ Discuss facts, not persons.
- ◆ Be positive, offer only constructive criticism.
- ◆ Expect unexpected business.
- ◆ Treat others as you would treat Jesus.

Parish Activity Calendar

Sunday, April, 8

- 2:00 pm Devine Mercy Sunday Celebration (Church)
- 3:00 pm Devine Mercy Sunday Reception (GR1&2)
- 5:30 pm Youth Ministry Life Teen (MC Gym)

Monday, April 9

- 1:00 pm Senior Citizens Meeting (MC Gym)
- 2:00 pm Girl Scouts Troop Meeting (GR 1&2)
- 6:00 pm Knights of Columbus Council Mtg.
(GR 1&2)
- 7:30 pm Boy Scouts Troop 440 Meeting (MC 1)

Tuesday, April 10

- 1:30 pm Girl Scouts Troop Meeting (GR 1)
- 6:30 pm Evening Prayer (Crying Room)
- 6:45 pm Boy Scouts Bear Den Cub Mtg. (Art Room)
- 7:00 pm Youth Ministry S.W.A.T. (MC Basement)
- 7:30 pm Boy Scouts Troop 440 Meeting (MC Gym)

Wednesday, April 11

- 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (MC Gym)
- 7:00 pm RCIA Presentation (Room 702)
- 7:00 pm H.S.A. Meeting (GR 1)

Thursday, April 12

- 1:30 pm Girl Scouts Daisy Troop Meeting (GR 1)
- 6:30 pm Youth Ministry EDGE (MC Gym)
- 7:00 pm Ladies of the Lord Meeting (GR 1&2)
- 7:00 pm Boy Scouts Pack 440 Leaders Mtg. (MC 3)

Friday, April 13

- 9:30 am Children's Playgroup (MC Basement)

Saturday, April 14

- 6:30 pm 1500 Club Raffle (MC Gym)

Sunday, April, 15

- 10:30 am Parishioner Social

Marriage Moment

Easter: Lent is over, Alleluia! Yes, you can go back to eating sweets if that's what you gave up, BUT don't go back to taking your "sweetie" for granted. Can you each treat the other to some favor today? Looking for the opportunity is half of the favor.

Parenting Perspective

"Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them." (John 20:23) Confession need not be limited to a priest in the confessional. Confess a mistake you've made to your child. Is there anyone they have hurt and can ask forgiveness from? Especially consider siblings.

Mass Schedule

Saturday, April 7

Vigil Masses

- 4:00 pm David Hayes by Karen Overhoff
George C. Rodgers by Cosgriff Family
- 5:30 pm Jim & Louise McParlan by Family

Sunday, April 8 – Sunday of Divine Mercy

- 8:00 am Margaret S. Burns
by Donald & Mary Brennan
Barbara T. Warren by Husband & Family
- 9:30 am Joyce Santora (living)
by Children & Grandchildren
- 11:00 am Daniel Kay by Daren & Julissa Kay
George Zigrossi
by Anne Marie & Thomas Rozek
- 12:30 pm Gerri De Lac by Family
Buddy Bogdan (anniv)
by Mary Lou Daigler & Family
- 4:30 pm Billy Hartigan by Tom & Diane Higgins

Monday, April 9 – Annunciation of the Lord

- 7:00 am Parishioners of St. Gregory's
John Tronolone by Family
- 8:00 am Matthew Maes (birth)
by Michael Anastasia
- 12:00 pm Priests of St. Gregory the Great
by Mike & Mary Ann Stetter
Carmen Contino by Maria Leone

Tuesday, April 10

- 7:00 am Edward J. & Natalie F. Mack by Estate
- 8:00 am Sam & Catherine Curazzato
by Sam & Dawn Curazzato
Georgetta Wells by Ginny Brittain
- 12:00 pm Robert Farrington by Carol & Frank Weise
Marion Rauh by Rauh Family

Wednesday, April 11 – St. Stanislaus

- 7:00 am Deacon Frank J. Shaughnessy
by Priests of St. Gregory's
- 8:00 am Tom Comer by David & Mary Beth Nasca
David J. Orr by Doris Orr
- 12:00 pm Joseph Renda
by Barbara Voigt & Robert Voigt
Rita Biondo by Sue Wargin

Thursday, April 12

- 7:00 am Juanita Schober by Tony & Nancy Spada
Sophie Wlos by Jay & Amy Roder
and Richard & Lori Grabenstatter
- 8:00 am Devin Waring by Beers/De Fabio Families
Janos Horvath by Andrew & Anna Kiss
& Family
(School Mass)
- 12:00 pm Richard Hertel II by Jeanne Hertel
Brian & Rosemary Barker (living)
by Maureen Barth

Friday, April 13

- 7:00 am John & Joyce Ambrosoli by Estate
Louise & Mary Carcelli
by Tom & Mary Kay Barrett
- 8:00 am Augusta Esquivel by Edith Varbanov
- 12:00 pm Michael Doller by Family
David T. King (living) by Tricia Hrycko

Saturday, April 14

- 8:00 am Michael Varbanov by Deanna Donatelli
Donald Noreika by Family Faith Formation
Staff

Vigil Masses

- 4:00 pm Chester Kasnik (birth) by Daughter,
Amy Ventura
- 5:30 pm Marie Pierino & Thomas Pierino
by Joyce Santora & Family
Paul LoTempio by Ronald & Joanne Zini

Sunday, April 15 – Third Sunday of Easter Mercy

- 8:00 am Chet Yauchzy by Daughter, Judy Klug
- 9:30 am Robert Farrington by St. Gregory the Great
School Office
- Mary Nowatka by John & Sandy Schimenti
- 11:00 am Donald Dillon by Dillon Family
Mark Kocsis by Ruth Crowley
- 12:30 pm Patricia & Frank Palczak
by Alfasso Family
Hanna Dawli by Joseph & Anita Anain
- 1:30 pm Baptisms
- 4:30 pm William Hartigan by Grandmother, Reidy

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Vincent C. DiNatale
Florence E. Higgins
Reverend Robert D. Moss
Francis M. O'Connor
Joan M. Schmidt
Joseph M. Yageric

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YOU ARE INVITED to host the Pilgrim Virgin Statue into your home for one week, with the commitment to offer the Rosary daily during that week. Since most of us are unable to make a pilgrimage to Fatima, Our Lady, with characteristic humility and love, reverses the process. She becomes the pilgrim. The spiritual benefits of the "Pilgrim Virgin" are numerous. Consider this wonderful opportunity to invite our Blessed Mother into your home. A sign-up sheet is available in the Church foyer. For more information, please call Donna at 688-5989.

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PAROCHIAL VICARS

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Msgr. Thomas Maloney (305);

FatherThomas@stgregs.org

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Deacon Peter Donnelly; pdonnelly@stgregs.org

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SCHOOL BOARD - schoolboard@stgregs.org

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

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

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688-5760 Fax: 639-8251

DIRECTOR

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

Moving In? Moving Out?

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PARISH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

8:30 am - 8:00 pm

FRIDAY 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

SATURDAY 9:00 am - 4:00 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 the second and fourth Sundays 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*
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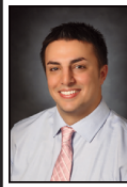
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