

# SAINT GREGORY THE GREAT PARISH

PARISH COMMUNITY LIVING  
THE GOSPEL . . .

~ IN FAITH  
~ IN WORSHIP  
~ IN SERVICE

December 21 and 22, 2019  
Fourth Sunday of Advent



## MESSAGE FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR



My Dear Parish Family,

As we celebrate this 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent the time of our preparation is quickly coming to a conclusion. In a few short days it will be Christmas Day! Please permit me to address both the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent and Christmas in this message.

The Gospel from Matthew, this 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, presents us with St. Joseph. I suppose we do not often consider St. Joseph to be an Advent figure. Most often we look to our Blessed Mother Mary, to St. John the Baptist or to the prophet Isaiah. St. Joseph is really a great role model for Advent and for our life of faith. St. Joseph does not have any speaking role in the Gospels. Usually we meet St. Joseph when he is encountering a message from an angel giving him instructions to follow in order to fulfill God's Will and plan of Salvation. I suppose many of us have the image that St. Joseph is being visited by Angels in his dreams as he slept. That may be true or maybe St. Joseph was a man steeped in prayer. I would like you to consider that St. Joseph didn't just have dreams, but that he was a man of mediation and contemplation. I would believe that St. Joseph was minimally somewhat educated. He was a carpenter, which was a skilled trade as it is today. St. Joseph was not a daily laborer who did not know if he was going to have a job from day to day. He was a skilled man and presumably a man who understood business, as he was not only the carpenter but was in business for himself and needed to understand economics of the time.

In St. Joseph's busy schedule, he was also a man of faith. We hear that he "did not want to expose Mary to the law and decided to divorce her quietly." He was an honorable man as well as a man who understood the Jewish law of the time. He was a man of prayer. I propose for your consideration the possibility that St. Joseph was a man steeped in prayer, reflection and med-

itation and not simply a man who dreamed dreams with meaning.

This 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent please take a little time for some quiet prayer, reflection, meditation and contemplation. I know it is easier said than done. I too have many preparations for Christmas including the final cards to write, the presents to wrap and the final decorating, not to mention all of the work needed to have the Church and our Christmas Masses properly planned and ready to celebrate. In the middle of the busy-ness of the week, I will take some time for quiet prayer and listening to the Lord as we contemplate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. I invite you to do the same. The Adoration Chapel is open 24 hours a day/7 days a week. So even if you are doing last minute midnight shopping, you can stop at the Adoration Chapel for some last minute quiet, reflection and meditation time.

As we celebrate Christmas, please know that we joyfully welcome one and all to our Christmas liturgies. Christmas is always a time to see our extended family both in our personal homes and in our church home. It is always wonderful to welcome back home all of our parishioners who have moved away but have come home for the holidays.

For our visitors to Western New York who happen to be celebrating with us at St. Greg's, and to our extended St. Greg's family who have returned for the holidays, please accept a big HELLO and Merry Christmas. We are thrilled that you are here and it is great to see you.

Some among us this Christmas may have just returned to Mass after being away from the sacraments for a while. We are especially grateful you are here. You may be feeling a nudge or angel speaking to you as did St. Joseph. My prayer is that your inner voice calling you to Mass this Christmas, or the voice of a parent, grandparent, sibling, spouse or friend, is the voice of our Savior Jesus calling you to come home for the Holidays and hopefully longer than just the holiday season.

**(Pastor's Article Continued on Page 2)**

Please know that we are here to serve you at St. Gregory the Great. Especially if you have been away from the sacraments or are questioning your faith or practice in the Roman Catholic Church, please reach out to us. Please contact any of our parish priests or Brian Ruh, our Director of Evangelization, or any of our parish ministerial staff. We will be thrilled to meet with you, answer any questions you may have, pray with you and pray for you. Welcome home, brothers and sisters in Christ.

Finally, to our regular parishioners of St. Greg's please accept my heartfelt thanks for all you do throughout the year. Thank you for your love, support and prayers. In these difficult times in our church, you are a true inspiration to me and you are a true light of Christ in our Diocese and world. Thank you for your perseverance, your faith, prayer and action. Thank you for your continued support of St. Greg's with your time, talent and treasure. On behalf of all of the clergy and the entire staff of St. Gregory the Great parish and school, I wish each and every one a Blessed Christmas. Please know of our love for you and our commitment to serve you. Please know that I offered Mass in the Holy Land in November for all of our parishioners and please know that all of the priest will be praying for you as we celebrate all of our Christmas Masses.

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

## Merry Christmas!!

### PARISH CLOSED

The Parish will be closed on Wednesday, December 25, and Thursday, December 26, to observe Christmas. There will be only one mass on December 26, at 8:00 am. The Parish will re-open at 8:30 on Friday, December 27.

For the full Christmas Mass Schedule see page 6 of the Bulletin, our website, or our social media sites.

### FAMILY MASS

The next Family Mass is Christmas Day at 9:30 am. If you and your family are interested in participating as Greeters, Ushers, or Lectors please contact Marisa Piazza at the Parish Office at [mpiazza@stgregs.org](mailto:mpiazza@stgregs.org) or 688-5678, ext. 303.

### PARKING LOT CONCERNS

It has been brought to our attention by a member of the Town of Amherst Traffic Safety Board that we have vehicles blocking the aprons to our parking lots, residential driveways, sidewalks and spaces between our handicap parking. We kindly ask all our parishioners to please park in our designated parking spots to allow easy access for emergency vehicles if needed and to ensure that you do not receive a ticket in the future.

### 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 the set 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

Mary

#### ANIMALS - \$300 EACH

Camel, Cow

#### ADDITIONAL STATUES

Shepherd \$350

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

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

STABLE \$2000 (one stable only)

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_



# St. Gregory the Great School

## BOXES OF JOY - THANK YOU!!!!

I witnessed the incredible generosity of St. Gregory the Great families and teachers when they assembled 12 Christmas Boxes of Joy which will be distributed to families at Our Lady of Black Rock Catholic School. Words can not express the joy the students had in carefully wrapping the beautiful items donated, but I will try!



The 4th Grade students exhibited such patience and kindness helping their little prayer partners wrap warm socks, dish towels, coloring books and crayons, chocolate candy, etc. Such simple gifts were made into beautiful presents. It's amazing how excited our young children are to give! The 4th Graders led us in prayer over the completed boxes and were true role models for their prayer partners.

Without the help of Mrs. Simon's Religion Class, the Boxes of Joy would not be complete. Giuliana Falletta, an 8th Grader, did an amazing presentation of this project to Mrs. Simon's Religion classes. As a result of the generosity of the Religion classes, along with the EK, PreK and 4th Grade classes, each Box included \$50 in cash or gift card! This monetary donation is an incredible gift to the parents receiving the Box and will allow them to make their family's Christmas special.



Special thank you to Emily Andzik and all the Teachers who took on this project. It is a lot of work and can get a little crazy! But, your smiles were infectious and your excitement with the children was beautiful! Even when a roll of tape was used to secure the wrapping of the smallest gift, you offered praise knowing they wanted it to be special! The love you have for your students was evident. The families receiving these gifts



will surely know Jesus' love this Christmas season! It is sometimes the smallest gifts given with such love which are treasured the most.



I should acknowledge two special volunteers who joined us. Dr. Rogenthien, the husband of our beloved Mrs. Rogenthien, donated precious religious items for all 12 Boxes of Joy and even stayed the entire time to help the children wrap and assemble the boxes! Mrs. Rogenthien loved this project and always paid special

attention to make sure each gift was wrapped with a properly tied ribbon! Mrs. Martha Eadie, Principal of OLBR school, is so grateful to St. Greg's for participating in this project for the past 3



years. She wanted to meet the teachers and students who so generously donated to her school families. She, too, stayed and joined in the wrapping of gifts with the children.

I know God will bless St. Greg's School Community for

their ongoing support of Our Lady of Black Rock School! Thank you all so much.

~Patti Hartigan





**JANUARY 31**  
St. Gregory the Great  
**MINISTRY CENTER**

# MEAT RAFFLE

to benefit  
**St. Gregory the Great School**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2020**  
**6 PM DOORS OPEN**  
**7 PM FIRST SPIN**  
**ST. GREG'S MINISTRY CENTER**



**TICKETS**  
**\$8 pp, must be 21.**

**Includes:** pizza, pop, wine, unlimited beer, and **Chance to Win 'Cooler of Meat'.**

No outside alcohol. Bring snacks. Split Clubs and 50/50 Raffle.

**Order Form** (Checks payable to: St. Greg's HSA)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

# Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ Reserve Table \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Submit form and payment to School Office: **MEAT RAFFLE.**  
Paid Tickets will be mailed to address on check.  
Questions: [MeatRaffleTime@gmail.com](mailto:MeatRaffleTime@gmail.com)

## FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.

The FFF Office will be closed December 21, 2019 and reopen on Monday, January 6, 2020 for the Christmas Break.

### FFF Upcoming Events and Information:

**Christmas Break:** There are **NO Classes** from December 16, 2019 - January 4, 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:** Thursday, January 9

**Saturday Classes:** January 11



FFF Fifth Graders made Advent wreaths and learned how the wreath, being circular, represents not only that God has no beginning and no end, but also symbolizes His infinite love. Do you know what the candles symbolize?

## 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.

## CATECHIST'S CORNER

It will soon be Christmas Day.  
Bibles, paper and pencils  
have all been packed away.

It's time to pause from our busy lives  
to take stock of all God's blessings,  
to give thanks and pray...

Lord, bless the teachers who give their heart  
to teaching our children.

Thank you for the grace and kindness  
of spirit you have given them.

May they know and feel the deep gratitude  
of all of us at Family Faith Formation and  
of those whom they teach.

Fill their hearts with joy and bless them  
at Christmas time and always.  
Amen.

**Matthew 25:37: Then the righteous will answer Him and say,  
“LORD, when did we see you hungry and feed you or, thirsty and give you drink . . .”**

- When you shared your food abundantly with the St. Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving Food Collection
- When you joined us in prayer for persons needing help
- When you helped make up baskets of food for St. Vincent DePaul’s Thanksgiving

**When did we see you a stranger and welcome you . . .**

- When you made welcome cards for new babies and welcome cards for the New Parishioners Orientation
- When you shared over 1500 gifts this Christmas with persons whose faces you will never see from Holy Cross, Strengthening Families, St. John Kanty, St. Patrick’s Food Pantry, St. Luke’s Mission of Mercy, Response to Love Center, Gerard Place, Villa Maria, and area group homes
- When you made hundreds of Rosaries and donated them to other children and parishes so that they, too, can pray for an increase in priesthood vocations
- When you made Rosaries for Our Lady of Black Rock School
- When you helped us provide school supplies to Response to Love Center and Our Lady of Black Rock School
- When you shared personal care items with the Franciscan Center, SS. Columba and Brigid and TRY House

**and naked and clothe you . . .**

- When you made 67 blankets for Harvest House and Gerard Place
- When you contributed hundreds of toiletry items for Response to Love Center, School 33 and needy persons in parishes in the city
- When you gave us hundreds of pairs of mittens, socks and hats for needy children the city at the Seneca Babcock Center and Our Lady of Black Rock School
- When you generously gave gift cards to share with the needy
- When you shared clothing and hundreds of presents with children at Public School 33, Seneca Babcock Community Center, SS Columba & Brigid, Jericho Road Family Ministries, TRY House and here at St. Gregory’s
- When you made over 100 tie-dyed tee shirts for the children of Our Lady of Black Rock Vacation Bible School
- When you gave First Communion and Sunday best clothing for children at Our Lady of Black Rock Parish

**When did we see you ill and visit you, or in prison and visit you . . .**

- When you shared toys and gifts with children at the WNY Children’s Psychiatric Center
- When you sent so many cards and Christmas gifts to retired priests and religious
- When you made and sent hundreds of cards with get-well wishes to the sick and elderly parishioners in nursing homes and retired priests and nuns
- When you gave us hundreds of gifts for children of families affected by violence and incarceration at Bissonette House, H.O.P.E., Peaceprints and Cephus
- When you made placemats for our elderly in area nursing homes
- When you drove all over WNY to deliver the collections of food, gifts and clothing to those who needed it
- When you collected packages of snack crackers for Sr. Karen’s Peaceprints Prison Ministry



**The Greatest Gift: Scenes from the Christmas Pageant held on Dec. 14 in the School Gym.**



**And the King will say to them in reply, “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did it for me.”**

# —SAVE THE DATE—

# FIAT

## Eucharistic Conference

January 11th

February 8th

March 7th

7:00-9:00 pm

## 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.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE LIVING NATIVITY

St. Greg's 13th Annual Living Nativity will take place on December 26 and 27. Beginning in the Gathering Rooms, a Shepherd will take groups of 12 weary travelers to Bethlehem through scenes depicting the road to Bethlehem in the Church and School. Director Jeff Criden needs adult, teen and children actors to portray Dancing Shepherds, Children of Bethlehem, One Wise Man, a Narrator, and most importantly, the Blessed Mother. Also needed and of high importance is a family with a baby to be the Holy Family with our live animals. Please contact Jeff Criden at 207-4878 or [jeffcrd@aol.com](mailto:jeffcrd@aol.com) to volunteer or have any questions. Volunteering for this would count as service hours.



hem in the Church and School. Director Jeff Criden needs adult, teen and children actors to portray Dancing Shepherds, Children of Bethlehem, One Wise Man, a Narrator, and most importantly, the Blessed Mother. Also needed and of high importance is a family with a baby to be the Holy Family with our live animals. Please contact Jeff Criden at 207-4878 or [jeffcrd@aol.com](mailto:jeffcrd@aol.com) to volunteer or have any questions. Volunteering for this would count as service hours.

JOIN US FOR MASS DURING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON OF CHRISTMAS



### CHOPIN SINGING SOCIETY

THE GROUP WILL PRESENT A PRELUDE TO THE 4:00 PM MASS ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, CONSISTING OF A MEDLEY OF POLISH KOLĘDY

200 St. Gregory Court, Williamsville, NY 14221  
716.688.5678 ———— [www.stgregs.org](http://www.stgregs.org)

### CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

4:00 PM IN THE CHURCH  
4:05 PM IN THE MINISTRY CENTER  
4:10 IN THE SCHOOL GYM  
6:00 PM IN THE CHURCH  
MIDNIGHT MASS IN THE CHURCH

### CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:30 NOON

### NEW YEAR'S MASSES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2020:  
8:00AM, 10:00 AM AND 12:00 NOON

 **St. Gregory  
the Great**  
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



## 2020 MARCH FOR LIFE --“LIFE EM-POWERS: PRO-LIFE IS PRO-WOMAN:”

The Diocesan Office of Pro-life Activities is sponsoring buses for the March for Life in Washington DC taking place on **Thursday, January 23—Friday, January 24, 2020.**

**Reservations for the bus trip accepted with payment due by Friday, December 27, 2019.** Cost is \$195.00 (incl. round-trip bus, breakfast, & speaker); \$145.00 (for bus only) or \$50.00 (for breakfast & speaker). Bus registration with online PayPal payment is available at [www.buffalodiocese.org/marchforlife](http://www.buffalodiocese.org/marchforlife). Mail-In registration forms are available online at [www.buffalodiocese.org/prolife-events#marchforlife](http://www.buffalodiocese.org/prolife-events#marchforlife)

**NOTE:** Participants are responsible for making their own hotel reservations. Hotel reservations at the Washington Plaza Hotel can be made by calling (202) 842-1300 or (800) 424-1140 or book online directly at [www.washingtonplazahotel.com](http://www.washingtonplazahotel.com). Single room rate: \$179.00; Double room rate: \$199.00 Subject to 14.5% DC sales tax per person. **(To get the special Diocesan room rates, make reservations by December 20. Mention the Diocese of Buffalo).**

Can't attend and want to help? Consider being a sponsor. For more details and information, visit [www.buffalodiocese.org/prolife](http://www.buffalodiocese.org/prolife) or call (716) 847-2205.

***“Defend the unborn against abortion even if they persecute you, calumniate you, set traps for you, take you to court or kill you.” –Pope Francis***

## CATHOLIC RESOURCES

Sign up for great movies, audios, eBooks and Bible studies! Free! Go to [www.FORMED.org](http://www.FORMED.org) Click ‘Sign Up’ then click ‘I belong to a parish or organization’ Type in ‘St. Gregory the Great, Williamsville NY’ and away you go... Did you know we have a Catholic Radio station right here in Buffalo? Tune into WLOF. FM 101.7 or go to < [www.thestationofthecross.com](http://www.thestationofthecross.com) > and give a listen to learn more about our faith. Do you have a question about our faith or curious about how to best explain our faith to someone? Check out Catholic Answers at [www.catholic.com](http://www.catholic.com) Maybe watching t.v. programs is more your preference? Check your local listings for EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network). Perhaps you're looking for a good book or thoughtful gift for a friend? Browse through our Bookstore located at the parish Ministry Center across the parking lot from the Church. If you would like to learn more about Catholic resources in our parish, please look us up at [www.stgregs.org](http://www.stgregs.org) or call us at 688 - 5678.



## 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
- ◆ SATURDAYS 10:00-11:00 pm

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

## A PRAYER FOR HEALING

God of endless love,  
ever caring, ever strong,  
always present, always just:  
You gave Your only Son  
to save us by the blood of His cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,  
join to your own suffering  
the pain of all who have been hurt  
in body, mind, and spirit  
by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear our cries as we agonize  
over the harm done to our brothers and sisters.  
Breathe wisdom into our prayers,  
soothe restless hearts with hope,  
steady shaken spirits with faith:  
Show us the way to justice and wholeness,  
enlightened by truth and enfolded in Your mercy.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,  
heal Your people's wounds  
and transform our brokenness.  
Grant us courage and wisdom, humility and grace,  
so that we may act with justice  
and find peace in you.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



## MINISTRY UPDATES

### SENIOR CITIZENS

**MONTHLY MEETING:** January 13, will continue the speakers series. Karen Wielinski, local author, will present. Karen and her husband were in their home in Clarence, New York on February 12, 2009 when an airplane crashed into it, killing her husband. All passengers on the plane were also killed. To honor her husband Karen has spent many hours along with other victims of that horrific accident changing rules and regulations for the safety of pilots as well as passengers. Please join our group in the Ministry Center if you are 55 or older at 1:00 pm.

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MONTHLY MEETING

The Knights of Columbus monthly officer meeting is December 30 at 7:00 in the Ministry Center.

### 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.



Our door is always open. If you have questions about the Catholic Faith, we can help you find answers. Email Jerry Peer at [gpeer@verizon.net](mailto:gpeer@verizon.net).

### 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!

## PARISH ACTIVITY CALENDAR

### Sunday, December 22

1:30 pm Baptisms  
7:00 pm Christmas Midnight Mass Brass Ensemble Rehearsal (*Church*)

### Monday, December 23

4:00 pm Christmas Midnight Mass Full Ensemble Rehearsal (*Church*)  
6:00 pm SWAT (*MC Basement*)  
7:00 pm Knights of Columbus leadership Mtg. (*MC2*)

### Tuesday, December 24

### Wednesday, December 25

### Thursday, December 26

6:00 pm Living Nativity (*School*)

### Friday, December 27

6:00 pm Living Nativity (*School*)

### Saturday, December 28

### Sunday, December 29

1:30 pm Baptisms

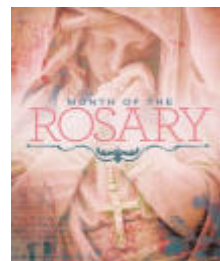


### CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Christmas Midnight Mass Choir will have one last rehearsal on Monday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in Church. Adult Choir rehearsals will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020 from 7:30 to 9:00 pm in Gathering Room 2. Parish Children's Choir will sing on Christmas Day at 9:30 am Mass. Their rehearsals will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> in Gathering Room 2 from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. This one rehearsal is to prepare them to sing on Sunday, January 12, 2020 at the 9:30 am Family Mass. Questions? Contact Nancy Erdman at [NErdman@stgregs.org](mailto:NErdman@stgregs.org) or call 688-5678, Ext. 308.

### PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE ROSARY

The Rosary is one of the most important, meritorious and powerful prayers one can pray. Please consider praying the Rosary after the 8:00 am and 12:00 pm Masses. These prayers “transform” our families, our community, our country and the world in a positive way! Also, on every Saturday, at 12:00 noon, the Rosary for our Country is recited, including an announcement for each state plus the Divine Mercy. In good weather in the Grotto and in inclement weather in the Church. Bring a folding chair, sing Ava Maria and God Bless America after reciting a powerful prayer for our Country.





## MASS SCHEDULE

### Saturday, December 21 - Vigil Masses

- 4:00 pm Mark V. Conley Jr. by Nancy & Christine Conley  
5:30 pm Nicholas & Dominica Parisi by Son & Family  
Dr. John T. Phelan by Mrs. Patricia A. Phelan & Family

### Sunday, December 22 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 am John Roberts by Rob & Becky  
Biagio Farace by Ladies of the Lord  
9:30 am Mr. & Mrs. Charles Coons by Nancy & Christine Conley  
Joan Gugliuzza by Family  
11:00 am Eleanor & Chester Lis by Family  
Frank Deni by Aunt Rose Sicurella  
12:30 pm DeAnn Terese Nicolaio by Parents  
1:30 pm Baptisms  
4:30 pm Therese Murray Ferrara by Patricia Reeder

### Monday, December 23 - St. John Kanty

- 7:00 am Gregory Bielinski by Anne Bielinski  
8:00 am Josephine & Alfred Caldiero by Children  
12:00 pm Francis X. Trauffer by Bill & Cathy Schrameck  
Rev. David Richards by Friend (Living)

### Tuesday, December 24- Christmas Eve

- 7:00 am Monroe W. Frank by Kathy Klawon  
8:00 am Nancy E. D'Arrigo by Mr. & Mrs. Joe Neri  
12:00 pm Mark V. Conley Jr. by Nancy Conley

### Christmas Eve Vigil Masses

- 4:00 pm Michael J. Wrobel by Mother & Sisters (Church)  
4:05 pm Daniel Siekierski by Children (MC Gym)  
4:10 pm Robert, Bernice, Patrick Allen by Allen, Benson, & Gerrish Families (School Gym)  
6:00 pm Leo & Emily Hoppe & Lois Brownschidle by Brownschidle Family  
12:00 Mid. Peter Schmitt Jr. by Maureen Schmitt  
Leon & Sophie Biernat by Son, Fr. Leon Biernat  
Margaret Tomani by Frank & Norma Bellezza

#### HOST REMEMBRANCE

Dr. John T. Phelan by Patricia Phelan and Family  
Steffan Family by B. Steffan

#### WINE REMEMBRANCE

Dr. John T. Phelan by Patricia Phelan and Family  
Joan Gibson by Sandra and Jim Holland

#### CANDLE REMEMBRANCE

Dr. John T. Phelan by Patricia Phelan and Family

### Wednesday, December 25- Nativity of the Lord - Christmas

- 8:00 am Sam & Joy Chiarello by MaryAnn & Sam Piazza & John Chiarello  
Rita K. Bargmann (Birthday) by Barbara Bargmann  
9:30 am Billy Hartigan by Tom & Dianne Higgins  
(Family Mass)  
11:00 am Olga Wopperer by Family  
Gaetano (Tom) Amabile by Wife, Linda Amabile  
12:30 pm Gerri De Lac by Family

### Thursday, December 26- St. Stephen

- 8:00 am Rita McGorry (Birthday) by Joyce Santoro & Family  
Sallie Steele by JoMarie Buscarino

### Friday, December 27-St. John the Apostle

- 7:00 am Paul Moran by Betty Moran  
8:00 am Parishioners of St. Gregory the Great  
Emmett Morgan & James Leta by Family  
12:00 pm Anthony Modicamore (Birthday) by Family  
Billy Hartigan (Anniversary) by Family

### Saturday, December 28- The Holy Innocents

- 8:00 am Donald Henry by Family

### Vigil Masses

- 4:00 pm Reno Ellero by Family  
5:30 pm Mary R. Schott by Judy & Tony Picone  
Michael J. Wrobel by Mother & Sisters-

### Sunday, December 29- The Holy Name of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph

- 8:00 am Duncan Driscoll Finigan by Pat Phelan & Laila Abdelmessih  
Dr. Rocco C. Venuto by Dr. & Mrs. John Menchini  
9:30 am Angela Scrivani by Ralph & Rose Pawlak  
11:00 am Florence Sodus by Douglas & Mary Bolton  
Frank Deni by Jay & Amy Roeder  
12:30 pm Mary Ann Rizzo by Ralph Mauro Family  
Luke Francis O'Connor by Joanne Werner  
1:30 pm Baptisms  
4:30 pm Michael Smith by Terry & Family

#### DECEASED

Michael S. Holden  
Maria G. Gennaro  
Walter Kostrezewski  
Scott Marcus  
Noreen Tigie

**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**

The best Catholic Content. All in one place. St.

Gregory the Great Parish code: **D7B6CQ**

**FORMED now has a mobile app!** You can sign

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 Instragram @stgregsyoungadults





# AMIGONE FUNERAL HOME, INC.

2600 Sheridan Drive, Tonawanda 836-6500  
5200 Sheridan Drive, Amherst 631-9000

## Why Pre-Plan?

Call us today for a free consultation.



**B&C UNITED HOME CARE**  
6400 Sheridan Dr., Ste 116  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
**716-633-7400**  
Our goal is to give personalized care for each family

**HUNT** HUNT Real Estate ERA  
5570 Main Street  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
**Beverly Costanzo**  
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson  
cell: (716) 868-9304 • ofc (716) 633-0300  
beverly.costanzo@huntrerealestate.com  
HUNTREREALSTATE.COM

**Pella**  
Call me today for a FREE in-home consultation!  
**Frank Vito**  
Sales Representative  
716-341-7393  
fvito@pellabuffalo.com

**Town & Village PEDIATRICS**  
Pediatric care for children and young adults  
New Patients Welcome  
**6044 Main St., Suite 100, Williamsville**  
Office Hours by appointment 633-6988

**Christopher Kicinski, CPA, CFP®**  
PARTNER, INVESTMENT ADVISOR  
p. 716.852.0279 x308  
ckicinski@sandhill-im.com  
Parishioner,  
School Board Member

**LB Orthodontics**  
Braces and Invisalign  
Call for a FREE Consult  
Dr. Bevilacqua, Parishioner & School Parent  
East Amherst • 716-689-0313

This Space is Available

UPGRADE TO A **VIBRANT ad**  
Contact us for details • 800-477-4574

**ST. GREGORY THE GREAT SCHOOL**  
- Early Childhood Programs -  
PK 3 & 4, Early Kindergarten and Kindergarten  
Partnering Faith with Education. Faith-filled, Joyful Learning.  
200 St. Gregory Court • Williamsville, NY  
**716-688-5323**

RIGHT PLACE. RIGHT CARE.  
Rehab • Skilled Nursing  
**689-6681**  
www.elderwood.com

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME  
ADVERTISE YOUR **BUSINESS HERE**  
Contact **Chris Reeves** to place an ad today!  
creeves@4LPi.com or (800) 477-4574 x6206

**Elderwood** at WILLIAMSVILLE

**Tonawanda Pediatrics**  
3950 E. Robinson Rd. • West Amherst  
**691-3400**

**THE ORIGINAL PANCAKE HOUSE**  
(716) 674-3344  
3019 Union Road  
Orchard Park, NY 14127  
Serving Breakfast Lunch & Dinner

PROTECTING SENIORS NATIONWIDE  
MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM  
**\$29.95/MO BILLED QUARTERLY**  
CALL NOW!  
1.877.801.7772

**catholicmatch®**  
New York  
CatholicMatch.com/NY

**Legarreta Eye Center**  
Medical-Surgical-Optical  
Eye Exams/Cataracts/Glaucoma/Dry Eye  
Contacts/Visit our ultimate eyewear shop  
Cheektowaga • 668-3030 Lockport • 433-0091  
Williamsville • 633-2203 • www.legarretaececenter.com

**Transit Meadow Pediatrics**  
6049 Transit Rd, Suite 101 • E. Amherst  
**691-4311**  
Pediatrician on call 24/7/365  
www.tonawandapediatrics.com

**JOE BASIL CHEVROLET**  
**\$1,000 more for your TRADE**  
683-6800  
JOEBASILCHEVROLET.COM

**DAVE SMITH Ford**  
4045 Transit Rd., Williamsville  
(716) 634-2000 • davesmithford.net  
Parishioner Owned

Let HEAP help you with your heating bills.  
**National Fuel**  
HEAPhelps.com

**NETH & SON, INC.**  
Celebrating Over 45 years in Business  
• Roofing • Windows  
685-3539  
Licensed & Insured  
www.nethandson.com

**Sean Patrick's**  
Banquets • Private Parties  
3480 Millersport • 636-1709  
Sean & Kim Lillis - Parishioners

**HARBORTOWN FINANCIAL GROUP**  
Patrick DeNisco • 716-276-7605  
Retirement Planning • Asset Management Platforms  
Life Insurance • Estate Transfer Strategies

**WE'RE HIRING AD SALES EXECUTIVES**  
• Full Time Position with Benefits  
• Sales Experience Preferred  
• Paid Training  
• Overnight Travel Required  
• Expense Reimbursement  
CONTACT US AT: careers@4LPi.com  
www.4LPi.com/careers

**FREE AD DESIGN WITH PURCHASE OF THIS SPACE.**  
- 800-477-4574 -

LET US PLACE YOUR AD HERE.

**Made Clean**  
THE QUEEN OF CLEAN  
639-7775  
www.made-clean.com

See What's in Store!  
JEWELRY • ROSARIES • BOOKS AND MORE  
www.parishstore.com

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE

**SPREAD THE WORD**  
A Thriving, Vibrant Community Matters  
**SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS**

**HELP PROTECT YOUR FAMILY**  
CALL NOW! 1-888-331-6501  
AUTHORIZED DEALER HOME SECURITY TEAM

**DANDELION'S RESTAURANT**  
Gregory T. Maghran - Owner  
1340 North Forest at Corvete Plaza, Williamsville  
(716) 688-0203

**TESMER BUILDERS INC.** (716) 689-8440  
8898 Transit Rd. E. Amherst, NY  
Lower Your Real Estate Taxes  
Build your New Home in Spaulding Green  
www.tesmer.com • info@tesmer.com

Compassionate Care. Proven Results.  
**Venous Institute of Buffalo**  
Dr. Michael Vasquez, MD, Parishioner  
Advanced Treatment of Legs, Veins & Venous Disease  
4927 Main St., Amherst  
716-877-7000

**FREDDIE'S PLUMBING SERVICE INC.**  
Residential Installations and Repairs  
Back Up Sump Pump Specialist  
Serving WNY Since 1909  
FRED CLABO 631-5513 or 895-3614  
freddiesplumbing.com



Honoring Over 129 Years of Faith, Family and Friends Pre-Planning • Medicaid Needs • Cremation A Million Questions? One Answer.

# THE DIETRICH FUNERAL HOME, INC.

2480 Kensington Ave., Amherst, NY 14226 • 839-2818 • www.TheDietrichFuneralHome.com



**SALVATORE'S**  
*Events & Catering*

We want to help you make beautiful memories with wonderful events!

Baptisms, First Communion, Weddings, Celebrations of Life and more!

www.salvatores.net  
716-635-9000

**SCHAEFER ELECTRIC, INC.**  
Commercial & Residential  
Licensed • Fully Insured  
Service Changes Our Specialty  
Brian Schaefer (Parishioner)

689-3839

No one enjoys sitting home alone.

**Mar-Bon social club**

The first social club exclusively for seniors in WNY.  
Contact Laurie Pope-Greco  
716-406-4577 *Make it a Wonderful day*

**POPE**  
LAW FIRM, PLLC

17 Beresford Ct., Ste. 5 • Williamsville, NY  
716-634-3320  
www.lawonly.com

When you're thinking of moving...call

**Joe Sorrentino**  
Licensed Real Estate Broker  
The Name You Know and Trust! ®

716-998-5637

**716 SOLD** Real Estate

St Greg's Parishioner Since 1991

**FAMILY MEDICAL PHARMACY**

"Where We Treat You Like Family"

Adjacent to Dash's at Hopkins & Klein  
Ph: 568-0800  
Michael Rossi, R.Ph - Parishioner  
Dennis Galluzzo, R.Ph

**PERNA, DENGLER, ROBERTS FUNERAL HOME**  
Honoring Memories, Celebrating Lives

1671 Maple Rd, Williamsville NY | 632.8200 | DenglerRobertsPernaFuneral.com

**MIKE "SARGE" SHOWALTER**  
WELCOMES YOU TO  
**LIA HONDA WILLIAMSVILLE**  
4891 TRANSIT RD

NEW HONDA'S - USED CARS  
MSHOWALTER@LIACARS.COM  
716-622-0607  
MARINE CORPS VETERAN  
PARISHIONER

www.wizardgoesgreen.com  
716-694-8524  
Heating, Plumbing, & Air Conditioning

Serving All of WNY

\$39 For All Heating, Cooling & Plumbing Service  
Calls for All St. Greg's Parishioners Day or Night

**JOSEPH CATUZZA, Usher/Parishioner**

**FREE AD DESIGN**  
WITH PURCHASE OF THIS SPACE.  
- 800-477-4574 -

**Register Now!**  
Before & After School Programs

- Homework Help
- Academic Programming
- Art, Science, Sports, Snacks
- Day Camp & Summer Camp Programs

www.LE3-Inc.Org • Ellie- 716-430-9322

**FirstLight HOME CARE**  
www.eastbuffalo.firstlighthomecare.com

Why not live at home?  
**634-CARE (2273)**

**LACROSS MONUMENTS**

2609 GENESEE ST. • 896-4654

MONUMENTS • MARKERS • GRANITE VASES  
CEMETERY LETTERING • STATUARY • PLAQUES  
GRANITE BENCHES • SHRINES • WALKWAYS

**The ROCK**  
KITCHEN & BAR  
AN AMERICAN TREASURE BUILT IN 1909

**SUNDAY BRUNCH**  
10:30am - 1pm  
with 1 hour \$5 Bottomless Bloody Marys & Mimosas.  
Kids Night Every Wednesday

6261 Transit Rd, East Amherst, NY  
**(716) 688-7625** rockkitchenandbar.com

**gotTRASH™**  
"We're Local!"

Trusted Junk and Debris Removal  
Residential/Commercial Cleanouts  
Demolition Projects  
Full Dumpster Service

TEXT or CALL: 716-800-2000  
gottrashusa.com

**THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE**

**Stovroff & Taylor**  
Realtors

Ask For Linda Dohn  
For All Your Real Estate Needs.  
**716-432-1130**  
Will donate 20% of my commission to the Parish.  
Original Parishioner/ Licensed Sales Agent

**AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME**

**ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE**

Contact **Chris Reeves** to place an ad today!  
creeves@4LPI.com or (800) 477-4574 x6206

**Buffalo Medical Group**

JoAnne L. Cobler, M.D.  
Cardiologist & Parishioner

**Certain Advice for Uncertain Times**

- Personal Financial Planning
- Tax Planning Strategies • IRAs/Mutual Funds

Mark C. Massaro, MBA, CRPC  
— Parishioner —  
17 Limestone, Suite 8 • Williamsville, NY 14221  
Office: 626-6750

The Personal Advisor of **Ameriprise Financial**

**greenviewteam.com**

8600 Roll Rd. Clarence Center, NY 14032  
(716) 741-8468  
Call today for a free estimate!

Spring Services Include...

- Weekly Lawn Cutting
- 5 - Step Fertilizer Treatment
- Spring Landscape Clean-up
- Monthly Landscape Maintenance
- Irrigation System Maintenance
- Exterior Home Detailing

Family owned and operated for over 30 years!

Follow the team!  
Instagram Facebook

New customers save 5% on our services.  
Just mention this ad!

**Church of St. Gregory the Great**  
https://stgregs.weshareonline.org

**ONLINE GIVING By WeShare**

**Heathwood**  
ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE  
care without compromise  
www.heathwoodassistedliving.com  
716-688-0111 Gary Henry, Parishioner

Margaret A. Novotny, MD  
Elizabeth D. Kermis, DO, Parishioner  
Molly A. Sheron, CNM/NP  
6161 Transit Rd., East Amherst  
**(716) 810-9718 | www.womanswellnessobgyn.com**

**Women's Wellness Associates**  
OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY