



Spirit & Life

Celebrating a Year of Faith! "Your Faith makes us Strong in Christ"

September/October 2012

Your Faith Makes Us Strong in Christ!

In the Acts of the Apostles, we learn that God opened the door of Faith for the early Church. But did you know that God has opened the door of Faith for each one of us, and He invites us to step through the threshold into a deeper relationship with Him? The upcoming *Year of Faith* is an opportunity for every Catholic to turn toward Jesus Christ, encounter Him in the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, and rediscover the Faith and the Church.

Pope Benedict XVI declared that a *Year of Faith* will begin on October 11, 2012, and conclude on November 24, 2013. The first day of the *Year of Faith*, October 11, is the 50th anniversary of the opening of Second Vatican Council and also the 20th anniversary of the new publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. During the *Year of Faith*, Catholics are asked to study and reflect on the documents of Vatican II and the Catechism so that they may deepen their knowledge of our Faith.

"The upcoming *Year of Faith* is a call to an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord, the One Savior of the world. In other words, it is an opportunity for Catholics to experience a conversion – to turn back to Jesus and enter into a deeper relationship with Him. The 'door of Faith' is opened at one's baptism, but during this year Catholics are called to open it again, walk through it and rediscover and renew their relationship with Christ and His Church." - (USCCB.org)

In this issue of *Spirit & Life*, you will read about the various ways that St. Gregory the Great plans to "Open the door of Faith" during the coming year. "Your Faith makes us Strong in Christ" will serve as our parish theme this year. Each person, each parishioner, every single one of us is needed - because by each of us growing in faith and sharing our own stories of faith, we inspire one another and bring one another closer to our Lord. Let us together begin the journey of this *Year of Faith* and walk together through the doors of renewal and conversion to meet Our Lord ever anew.

DINNER AT TIFFANY'S

Join us for the 14th Annual Great Dinner Auction for an evening of dinner, dancing and bidding! It will be a spectacular night of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a grand silent auction. A gala dinner follows afterward with a live auction.

Please invite your family and friends to attend this year's auction. It will be on Saturday, October 20, beginning at 5:30 pm in Samuel's Grande Manor, Williamsville. Tickets are \$95 per person.

(continued on page 2)





THE CATHOLIC FAITH EXPLAINED! “CATHOLICISM” SERIES AT ST. GREGORY’S

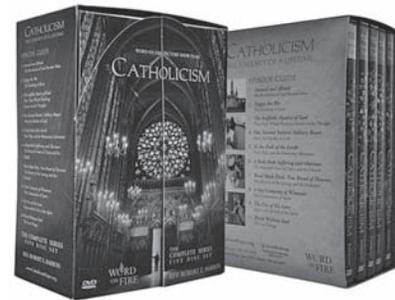
Have you been away from the Church? Do you have questions about the Catholic Church? Would you like to know more about the beliefs and traditions of the Catholic Faith? Are you looking to be inspired by a deeper understanding of our Faith?

All are truly welcome to join us this fall as we sponsor the internationally acclaimed 10-session documentary series titled “Catholicism.” Created and narrated by Fr. Robert Barron, a well-known theologian, author and lecturer, the DVD series offers a global perspective with footage from 50 different locations in 16 countries. Fr. Barron uses many “tools” – art and architecture, story and song, philosophy and theology – to dramatically show the truth, goodness and beauty that is Catholicism.

This series is an excellent knowledge source for our Catholic faith, beneficial to both long-term Catholics who want to refresh their understanding as well as new Catholics who desire to learn more about their faith. As Fr. Barron states, “Catholics need to defend their faith in an increasingly secularized society. We must share our knowledge with the world.”

Each session is being held in the Church and will include a one-hour DVD presentation followed by a discussion facilitated by the priests and pastoral staff of St. Gregory’s. The first session begins on Tuesday, September 18, at 7:00 pm. Subsequent sessions follow on consecutive Tuesdays, concluding November 20.

Watch the weekend bulletins and our parish web site (www.stgregs.org) for more information. Attending all 10 sessions is encouraged but not necessary. No prior sign-up is required; just come as often as you can. We encourage you to invite a friend, neighbor, co-worker or family member who may benefit from this opportunity to grow in their understanding of our Catholic faith!



Dinner Auction *(continued from page 1)*

The auction committee has been hard at work all summer planning this fantastic event. We are truly blessed to have such dedicated volunteers. The spirit and commitment of our volunteers are true examples of living your faith in Christ.

Once again we are selling car raffle tickets for the Car or Cash Raffle. Tickets are \$20 each for a chance to win \$10,000 toward the car of your choice from our parish family of dealerships or \$8,000 cash!

The auction benefits our entire parish family. We hope you will be part of making it a success!

If you have any questions or would like to purchase a ticket to the event or car raffle tickets, please contact the church office or the Auction Office (688-5678, Ext. 337 or at dinnerauction@gmail.com).

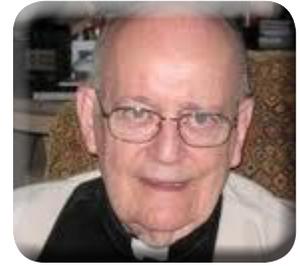




IN MEMORIAM

PASTOR EMERITUS MONSIGNOR RUPERT A. WRIGHT

JANUARY 16, 1930 – JULY 3, 2012



This September/October issue of “Spirit & Life” is dedicated to our late, beloved Monsignor Rupert A. Wright. Throughout his life as a priest, monsignor unfailingly demonstrated his great faith and spirituality, his leadership in the parishes he served and in the diocese, and his continuing love and concern for all. The following is excerpted from Monsignor’s own words on the occasion of his 50th anniversary of ordination:

My Dear People of the St. Gregory the Great Parish Family,
On May 26, 1956, in St. Joseph’s New Cathedral, Delaware Avenue and Utica Street, a major change occurred in my life. I was ordained a priest of God in the Roman Catholic Church by Bishop Joseph A. Burke. I am grateful to all who have assisted me in my ministry throughout the years. In the past 50 years I have found great happiness in the priesthood. I would not change my life if I could. For the Church to continue to live and to grow, we need more priests. You can and need to help fill the gap in various ways:

- 1. Pray for vocations every day; include the request for priestly callings in your prayers. God wants to be asked.*
- 2. Have a positive attitude about the role of a priest. Would you be happy if your son became a priest? In the past, it was considered an honor to have a priest in the family!*
- 3. Suggest priesthood to good young men among your relatives and friends. Ask them, “Have you ever thought about being a priest? I think you would make a fine priest.” Recognize and acknowledge that material things don’t make happiness.*

God bless you and your family for all the good things you have done for me and other priests throughout the years!

- Msgr. Rupert A. Wright, Pastor

Let us honor our dear Monsignor Wright by praying for vocations, encouraging young men to consider priesthood and supporting our priests in every way we can. Thanks be to God for Monsignor Wright. May he rest in peace.





What's Coming

Celebrating a Year of Faith! "Your Faith makes us Strong in Christ"

All are welcome to join us for any of the following opportunities to grow in Faith.

- **Great Adventure "Quick Journey" Through the Bible Study**

This eight-session series will be held in conjunction with our Generations of Faith Program beginning in September. Please choose one of the following sessions being held in the School Gym:

SESSION A Sunday Mornings, 10:50 - 12 noon

SESSION B Sunday Evenings, 5:50 - 7:00 pm

September 9 January 5

October 14 February 3

November 4 March 3

December 2 April 14

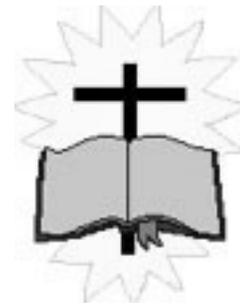
SESSION C Thursday Evenings, 6:35 - 7:45 pm

September 13 January 10

October 11 February 7

November 8 March 7

December 6 April 18



To register, please contact Joan Rischmiller in the Faith Formation Office (\$10 registration fee).

- **Great Adventure ACTS of the Apostles: The Spread of the Kingdom**

Twenty-session study on Wednesdays beginning September 26, at 7:00 pm. To register, please contact Laraine Leardon in the Parish Office (\$40 materials fee).

- **Little Rock Bible Study on the Book of Revelation**

Monday mornings and evenings beginning September 10. Please contact Joan King (688-7238) to pre-register (\$15 materials fee).

- **Catholicism: Journey around the World and Deep into the Faith**

This ten-week educational DVD series reveals the truth, beauty and richness of the Faith in an unprecedented way. Join us in the Church on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm from September 18 through November 20.

For more information contact Eileen Warner in the Parish Office (No Fee).

Last Minute Reminder!

Johnnette Benkovic of EWTN will present an all-day conference, "In the Footsteps of Mary," sponsored by Magnificat-Buffalo, at St. Gregory the Great Ministry Center on Saturday, September 8. Johnnette is the founder and president of Women of Grace and Living His Life Abundantly International. She is also a beloved and inspiring presence on Catholic Radio, 101.7 FM.

Doors will open at 7:30 am for the event, hosted

by Ladies of the Lord. The program starts at 8:45 am and ends at 3:30 pm. Admission is \$45 and includes a Subway ham, turkey or veggie lunch. Mail checks payable to Magnificat-Buffalo to Judy Swain, 609 North Star Road, East Aurora, NY 14052. Nonperishable food items will be collected to benefit St. Luke's Mission of Mercy. For more information, contact Shirley 283-0546 or visit www.magnificat.catholicweb.com.



Parish Health Ministry Upcoming Events!

Our Parish Health Ministry has many events scheduled this fall.

All are invited to attend a **Senior Housing Fair** on Saturday, September 29, from 1:00 to 3:30 pm in the Ministry Center Gym. Representatives from more than 30 senior-housing communities will attend. They will have information about the types and costs of their services and will answer your questions. Also available will be companies that help people to stay safely and independently in their homes. The Senior Housing Fair offers a convenient opportunity to gather information for yourself or a family member about the many options available. There will be plenty of free gifts, and Family Medical Pharmacy will offer flu shots at the event, so be sure to bring your insurance cards.

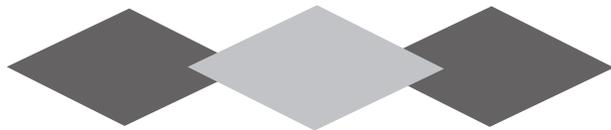


The annual St. Gregory's **Flu Clinic** will be held on the weekend of October 6 and 7 in the Gathering Room after all Masses.

Our Health Ministry will host a **“Bootcamp for Successful Aging”** with Elder Law attorney Laurie Menzie and geriatric care manager Beverly Kubala. Laurie and Beverly will help you understand what is involved and how best to prepare yourself for the future. The two-part presentation will be held on Saturday, November 3 and 10, from 10:00 am to 11:30 am.

Our ministry is continuing with the monthly **Depression Support Group**, facilitated by Daryl Taberski, a counselor from BryLin Hospital, on the third Tuesday of the month in the Ministry Center from 7:00 to 8:00 pm.

Watch the Bulletin for these and other upcoming Health Ministry events. Call Maureen Couche at 688-5678, Ext. 339 or email mcouche@stgregs.org if you are interested in attending the support groups or if you have any questions about our Health Ministry.



this Fall

Divine Mercy Conference *By Dawn Curazatto*

This year's Divine Mercy Conference will be held September 15, at Our Lady of Victory Basilica, from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm. Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door, and include a boxed lunch. Tickets can be ordered on line www.thedivinemercy.org/buffalo or by phone 1-800-462-7426.

The theme is “Drawing closer to Jesus through Mary.” Speakers include Immaculee Ilibagiza, who wrote “Left to Tell,” a story about her survival during the Rwandan genocide and her remarkable ability to forgive amid brutal trials. In this harrowing but inspiring true story, she gives a firsthand account of her experience in the 1994 Rwandan genocide and how she miraculously came out alive after spending 91 days hiding in a cramped bathroom with seven other women. Her belief in the power of prayer and her personal relationship with God serve as a truly moving testament to the importance of trusting in God and forging a strong faith. She also wrote “Led by Faith” and “Our Lady of Kibeho.” Her speaking engagements in the past have been sellouts.

Also speaking will be the Rev. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC, provincial superior of Mother of Mercy Province of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, and Fr. Michael Gaitley, author of “33 Days to Morning Glory” and “Consoling the Heart of Jesus.” These books are setting hearts afire across the country, and they are great tools of evangelization.

We will be carrying these books at St. Gregory's and look forward to offering a prayer/study group led by Chris Schober on “33 Days to Morning Glory” to be held after the first of the year. It is our hope that all of these opportunities will help us to grow in our understanding of our Catholic faith and support us in our efforts to reach out and bring this Good News to others.



Summer Re-Cap Photo Page

Vacation Bible School



Camp Covecrest



Summer Mission Retreat



Jr. High Day Camp



Wine Tasting





The Joy of Vocations

Our very own Katrina Delaney will be joining the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George in early September. S&L spoke with Katie and asked a few questions about her vocation:

S&L: Katie, you were a teacher at St. Greg’s and now you are embarking on a very different journey. Please tell us where God has called you:

KD: God is calling me to live a life of prayer – both active and contemplative – with the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George starting this September 8 on the date commemorating Mary, our Mother’s birthday. Several years ago I began teaching at St. Greg’s School and I loved my time with students, parents, teachers and administration, but I realized that something was missing. Even though I loved my time teaching, I knew in my heart that I needed to discern the calling of Christ to the beautiful choices of marriage and/or religious life. Both are wonderful ways of service and prayer to our Lord, but I was unsure which one was God’s divine will for me.

S&L: Did Adoration play a role in this decision?



KD: In order to ensure that I was following His calling I spent numerous hours in the Adoration Chapel as well as going to regular Confession. In God’s perfect time, I understood that He was calling me to religious life.

S&L: You are blessing our parish and the entire Body of Christ by your “Yes” to God’s call. What may we do to support you?

KD: Continued prayers for my family, friends, our parish and myself are very important as we all need grace to trust in our Lord. Please remember that God loves you!

S&L: Is there an address where we may write to you?

KD: You are welcome to write me at Katrina Delaney; St. Francis Convent; 1 Franciscan Way; P.O. Box 9020; Alton, IL 62002-9020.

Katie, thank you for always being such a bright light for Jesus and allowing Him full reign over your life. Your joy is a gift to us all. Please know we will all be praying for you and for your family. God bless you!

Our Catholic Response to the HHS Mandate and Religious Liberty

By Mary Pesarchick, Parish Respect Life Chairwoman

On January 20, 2012, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) mandated that all employer-provided health insurance policies include no-cost coverage of contraceptives, sterilization and abortifacients. This requirement extended to ALL employers regardless of any religious or moral objections to providing such coverage. Religious institutions were granted a year’s extension but must comply fully as of August 2013, or face stiff financial penalties.

Recognizing the very real threat this poses to the constitutional right to religious freedom, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) launched a campaign of prayer and education to compel the government to repeal this mandate. The USCCB’s official statement, “Our First, Most Cherished Liberty,” outlined several actions that would be undertaken towards achieving this outcome.

The effort was launched with the “Fortnight of Freedom” which took place nationwide from June 22 to July 4. It will be addressed publicly again in November on the Solemnity of Christ the King, when all bishops and priests are asked to preach about the topic of religious freedom here in this country and around the world.

The importance of educating not only Catholics but persons of all faiths, about this issue cannot be overemphasized. For this purpose, the USCCB has launched a webpage, www.Fortnight-4Freedom.org, which has an abundance of information and downloadable materials and prayers. In addition, those interested in receiving updates and information via their cell phones can text the word “Freedom” to 377377.

The recent Supreme Court ruling upholding the individual mandate and, thus, the “Affordable Health Care Act,” guarantees the Catholic Church’s battle against the HHS mandate will continue. We, the Catholic laity, are an integral part of this fight. As Archbishop Chaput stated in his homily to close the Fortnight of Freedom, “*We live in a time that calls for sentinels and public witness. Every Christian in every era faces the same task. But you and I are responsible for this moment. Today. Now. We need to ‘speak out,’ not only for religious liberty and the ideals of the nation we love, but for the sacredness of life and the dignity of the human person – in other words, for the truth of what it means to be made in the image and likeness of God.*”



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www.stgregs.org

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Saint Gregory the Great Catholic Church

Check out our Newly Re-designed Website!
www.stgregs.org

Mark Your Calendar For These Upcoming Events:

September

- 8 - Magnificat Conference with Johnnette Benkovic
- 10 - Senior Citizens Meeting
- 12 - Diabetes Education Presentation
- 15 - Café Wine & Cheese Social
- 16 - Catechetical Sunday
- 16 - Parish Gift-Gathering after morning Masses
- 16 - Youth Ministry JRev Kick-Off night
- 18 - Catholicism Series Begins
- 29 - Senior Housing Fair
- 29 - Mass of Recognition for Police and Fire Department Workers

October

- 6,7 - Respect Life Weekend
- 6,7 - Flu Clinic/Health Screening after all Masses
- 13 - Food Shuttle 23rd Annual Luncheon
- 13 - Café Wine & Cheese Social
- 14 - Pancake Breakfast
- 20 - Great Dinner Auction: Dinner at Tiffany's - Samuel's Grande Manor
- 20, 21 - St. Vincent de Paul Fall Clothing Drive
- 23 - School Open House
- 27 - Matthew Kelly Presentation - St. Leo the Great Parish

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