

SAINT GREGORY THE GREAT

PARISH COMMUNITY

LIVING THE GOSPEL . . .

~ IN FAITH

~ IN WORSHIP

~ IN SERVICE



Second Sunday of Advent

December 8 & 9, 2018

From the desk of the Pastor

My dear parish family, it is good to be back home with you! On one hand it seems like the five months of my sabbatical have flown by and on the other hand it seems "like forever" since we have been together.

My sabbatical was awesome. It was a true gift to have five months free from the responsibilities of administration in order to rest, pray, reflect, study, write and travel. I feel renewed and I believe I have a different and new perspective. Briefly, I enjoyed attending conferences in the area of scripture and apologetics and also enjoyed some study online. I had opportunities to spend time at the Trappist Monastery in Piffard. The largest accomplishment was finally writing the book I have desired to author. I have accomplished twenty-one of what I expect to be twenty-two chapters in total. Although I did travel a bit, I unfortunately cancelled my trip to Italy. In late July I herniated four discs in my neck which precluded me from travelling to Europe. I was especially looking forward to celebrating Mass at St. Peter's Basilica over the grave of St. Pope John Paul II. I suppose that will have to wait for another time. I return renewed and re-energized to pastor our family. Please know that I celebrated Mass daily and prayed for you every day.

I wish to extend a word of thanks to Bishop Malone for granting my sabbatical. In our Diocese a priest has the opportunity to take a sabbatical every ten years and this was my first one. I am ordained twenty-six years. After this experience, I believe it should not only be an opportunity, but a requirement, for priests to take a sabbatical in order to remain updated professionally and academically and most importantly rejuvenated spiritually. I want thank all of our clergy at St. Greg's for stepping up to work even harder to allow me this opportunity. Thank you to Sister Shawn, Father Thomas Maloney and Father Paul Cygan and a special thank you to Father Tom Mahoney. As I mentioned at Thanksgiving Day Mass, it was Father Tom who volunteer to stay an additional year at St. Greg's in order to allow me to go on my sabbatical. Father Tom's term at St. Greg's was to end in June, 2018. It was Father Tom who requested this one year extension from Bishop Malone. I am indebted to Father Tom for all he has done in the last five months to lead our parish family. I believe he has done an awesome job! Thank you Father Tom!! **(Continued on page 2)**

Christmas Gift Collection

If you took a Christmas gift tag for our Gift Collection, please return wrapped gifts or gift card(s), *with gift tag attached** to the **Gathering Room on Saturday, December 8** after masses, and on **Sunday, December 9**, **NO LATER THAN 12:00 noon. Please DO NOT leave gifts in the Church vestibule** (drop off is in the Gathering Room) **and please do not bring gifts prior to the collection weekend on Dec. 8 and 9!** *Gifts being collected for **Response to Love** should be placed in gift bags, rather than being wrapped. Thank you for your generosity!

Parish Penance Service

Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Parish Penance Service: Tuesday, Dec. 11, 7:00pm.

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT APPEAL

Please support our elderly religious! A parishioner writes, "As a Catholic School student from grades K-12, I was formed to be the person I am by many religious brothers and sisters, and I am forever grateful." Please give generously to the second collection on **December 8 and 9** to provide care for elderly religious.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon. Dec. 10: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26
Tues. Dec. 11: Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14
Wed. Dec. 12: Revelation 11:9a; 2:1-6a, 10ab (690A); Luke 1:39-47
Thurs. Dec. 13: Isaiah 41:13-20; Luke 11:11-15
Fri. Dec. 14: Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19
Sat. Dec. 15: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13
Sun. Dec. 16: Zephaniah 3:14-18a (9C); Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Prayer of repentance

Reading I Baruch 5:1-9 (Jerusalem consoled)
Reading II Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11 (gratitude and hope)
Gospel Luke 3:1-6 (John the Baptist)
Key Passage John went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. (Luke 3:3)

Adult: *In what areas of your life do you need God's forgiveness right now? What Advent practice would assist you in expressing your repentance?*

Child: *What do you want to ask God to forgive you for? What can you do during Advent to show you are?*

VOCATION VIEW

We are urged to "prepare the way of the Lord!" God has called some men and women to show His children how to do this through their leadership as priests and religious brothers and sisters. 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!

Oplatki Christmas Hosts

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

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

Sessions of Inquiry (your questions) have begun: next meeting this Wednesday, December 12, at 7:00pm in Room 702 in St. Gregory the Great School. All are welcome. Please call Fr. Paul Cygan at [688-5678](tel:688-5678) x 336 for more information.

WEATHER-RELATED PARISH SCHEDULE

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

(From the desk of Continued from Page 1)

I made a "surprise" visit to our Parish Auction in November. I am grateful it was a huge success! This is a difficult time for our Diocese and I know that Parish participation is down virtually in every parish of the Diocese. St. Gregory's is not an exception. I have been told some people have backed away from the Church in these difficult times. I am especially grateful to all who have stayed. Knowing all of the difficulties in our Diocese at this time, makes our Auction an even greater success! Even though our overall attendance was down, the spending-per-person of those who attended was the best ever. Thank you to everyone who participated in any way. Thank you to all who worked the event and to all who donated items for the Auction. Thank you to everyone who came and spent so generously to make the night a success. Thank you to our two chair couples, Matthew and Kelly Doktor and Steve and Maria Glamuzina, for a superb job! Thank you to our auction coordinator, Cindy Reitebach, for another excellent job! Finally, congratulations to our newest inductees to the "St. Gregory Cornerstone Award" wall of fame – congratulations to Allegra Perna and Cheryl Bertovich on a well-deserved honor. Thank you, Allegra and Cheryl, for all you do to make St. Gregory's Parish truly, Great!

Of course I have much more to tell you, but that will wait for the weeks ahead. As we celebrate this second Sunday of Advent, may we reflect on the one clear goal of life, as God would define it; that goal is love. We need to see love not only as the goal of life and the true definition of love in the love of Jesus Christ, but we need to see our call of love as the road to travel throughout our lives as well as the fuel for our journey. The goal of this Advent, in addition to being ready to celebrate Christmas with cards, gifts, cookies and decorations, is to become more focused on the goal of love as well as our own lived expression of love day-in and day-out throughout our lives. Are you going to emerge from Advent to be more focused on love and actually become more loving every day?

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

PARISH SOCIAL/ NEW PARISHIONER WELCOME

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

Family Faith Formation

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

FFF Families are invited to attend our Christmas Pageant on Saturday, Dec.15, 2018 at 9:15 am in the School Gym!

Christmas Break: No FFF Classes December 22, 2018-January 4, 2019. Classes resume on Saturday, January 5, 2019.

Save the Date: First Friday Club will meet on Jan. 4, 2019.



FFF Second Graders showing the Prayer Pillowcases they decorated!



FFF Fourth Graders gave presentations about their favorite saint during the Saints Fair.



Catechist Corner

Prayer in Appreciation of our Catechists

Jesus, Divine Teacher,
You bless us with many special people in our lives. Today, we thank You for our wonderful Catechists. We thank You not just for what they teach, but for how they teach. Thank You for the patience, care and concern that they show our youth. May they know that their example of faith and kindness has tremendous impact on our children's lives. Bless our Catechists today and always. Amen

From 500 Prayers for Catholics Schools and Parish Youth Groups, p 49.

Living Nativity

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

Senior Citizens

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

December 29 - January 2, 2019, motor coach tour, featuring Swingin' New Year's Eve Celebration in Savannah, GA. \$624/person double occupancy. 2 nights lodging, 4 breakfasts, New Year's buffet, 2 dinners including a Riverboat Dinner Cruise, New Year's Eve Show & Party at Savannah Theater. For travel reservations/information, call Nancy at 631-5313. **For future trips, payment is now required when making reservations and/or a deposit on overnight trips.**

Marriage Moment. Marital arguments sometimes go round in circles with each spouse trying to prove they are right. Sometimes you are right, but that's not the point. If you can recognize part of the argument that you were wrong in, simply saying "I was wrong" can help. Resist following it with "But..."

Parenting Perspective. We have heard the apostle John say, "Prepare the way of the Lord." (Luke 3:4) There are usually many preparations to make for Christmas. Help your child focus on preparing and waiting for the celebration.

St. Gregory the Great School News

Message from the Principal:

We are very excited to share that we had our first annual K-4th Grade Turkey Trot. Thank you to Mr. Fiegl's 4th Grade WIN class that organized the event. The students proposed the idea to administration, helped with flyers, and worked with Mr. Fiegl and Mrs. Perna to coordinate and run the event. Each grade level had a time slot and was able to cheer their classmates on while they ran for 10 minutes. The gym came alive with students with posters and music, and the time clock was used to help students stay motivated. Our 4th Graders wanted to build school community as well as promote physical fitness. We are so very proud of our 4th Graders and we want to thank Mr. Fiegl and Mrs. Perna for supporting student leadership and this event. We can't wait for next year!

Students showed gratitude in many different ways this holiday season. Some classes held a "Friendsgiving" to build community. Other classes held a Thanksgiving breakfast or feast. Our Pre-K 4 and 4th Grade prayer partners participated in service work preparing "boxes of joy" for families in need for the Christmas season. Thank you to Father Tom, Father Thomas, Father Paul, and our faculty, staff, and parent volunteers who have given their time and talents to support our loving school each and every day. We thank God for all that we have and look forward to continuing to build our school community based on faith, love, hope, and reconciliation.- Julie Gajewski- Principal



This is the Collaborative Quilt Mosaic created by the students at St. Greg's. Each student created a unique square and it was assembled together as one large quilt. This was done as part of a Unity Day project to symbolize that all students unite against bullying and stand together for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion. The project was led by art teacher Mr. Gennaro and school counselor Ms. Weppner.

School Office Hours

The School is open Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 3:00pm and is closed on all major Holidays. Contact us at www.strgregsschool.org or Email: StGregsFrontOffice@stgregs.org Like us on Facebook Follow us on Twitter

Youth & Young Adult Ministry

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

Middle School: Visit stgregsym.org for more information!

Ignite– December 11

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

EDGE– December 13, 20

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

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

Life Teen– December 9, 16

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

SWAT Team– December 19 and January 9

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

High School Hangout– December 21

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

Empowered In Christ–December 12

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

High School Havoc January 11-12

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

March For Life January 17-19

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

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

Youth & Young Adult Ministry (continued)

Open Young Adult Lineup

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

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

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

College Lineup

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

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

Mark your calendars!

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



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

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

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, December 12, from 7:00-9:00 pm in GR 1.** Please bring a friend, a brother, a dad, an uncle or cousin for this special night. For more information please contact Ray Geska at 541-8345 or raygeska@yahoo.com, or Jeff Criden at 207-4878 or jeffcrd@aol.com.

LADIES OF THE LORD

Ladies of the Lord Christmas meeting is December 13, 7:00 pm, in the Gathering Room. December birthdays, please bring Christmas cookies and anyone else wishing to do so may also contribute. Our Christmas party is at Brookfield Country Club, Saturday, December 15, at 11:00 am-2:00 pm.

VISIT OUR CATHOLIC STORE FOR...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Catholic Store—276-6920

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING...

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

ADULT MISSION TRIP – JULY 2019

The smallest little action can explode into a lifetime of love. We will be taking a group of adults ages 21 and over to a Mustard Seed community in Moneague, Jamaica from July 13-20, 2019. If you are interested, please plan on attending an informational meeting on Saturday, January 5, at 3:00 pm in Gathering Room 1. Can't make the meeting? Look for mission trip participants in the vestibules after all Masses January 5 and 6 or contact Elizabeth Astridge at 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, click on "donate now" and follow the link to our Mission Trip Donation page. Thank you for your generosity!

LECTORS NEEDED

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



Music Ministry

Rehearsals

Children Choir (Grades 2-8)

4:30 pm Tuesday, December 11, in GR 2

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

Adult Choir for 11:00 Mass

8:00 pm Wednesday, December 12, in GR 2

Choir for Christmas Midnight Mass

7:00-8:00 pm Wednesday, December 12, in GR 2

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



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

"SPIRITUAL SPINS & GRINS"

From Father Francis

Be faithful in the little practices of love, which will build in you the life of holiness and make you Christlike. [St. Teresa of Calcutta]

THANK YOU!

The Ladies of Charity would like to thank Daniel Victoor and all the people and groups that assisted with changing the Breaking Bread books last Saturday morning after Mass. It was greatly appreciated.



Respect Life

2019 March for Life --“Unique From Day One:”

The Diocesan Office of Pro-life Activities is sponsoring busses for the March for Life in Washington DC taking place on Thursday, January 17—Friday, January 18, 2019.

Reservations for the bus trip are being accepted with payment due by December 28. Cost is \$185.00 (incl. round-trip bus, breakfast, & speaker); \$135.00 (for bus only) or \$50.00 (for breakfast & speaker). Bus registration is available by calling the Pro-Life Office at 716-847-2205 or online at www.buffalodiocese.org/prolife-events#marchforlife

Participants are responsible for making their own hotel registrations. 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. Single room rate: \$179.00; Double room rate: \$199.00 Subject to 14.5% DC sales tax per person. **(Please note: To get the special Diocesan room rates, make reservations by December 17. Mention Diocese of Buffalo 2019.)**

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

“This defense of unborn life is closely linked to the defense of each and every other human right... Human beings are ends in themselves and never a means of resolving other problems... Once this conviction disappears, so do solid and lasting foundations for the defense of human rights, which would always be subject to the passing whims of the powers that be.” – Pope Francis, “The Joy of the Gospel”

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.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day is Wednesday, December 12. A Prayer Service will be held following the Noon Mass, to celebrate this special day. Please join us in prayer.

Parish Activity Calendar

Sunday, December 9

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

Monday, December 10

5:00 pm Youth Ministry College Life (MC Café)
6:00 pm Youth Ministry Music Practice (MC Basement)
7:30 pm Boy Scouts Leadership Meeting (MC 1)

Tuesday, December 11

6:00 am Family-to- Family Drop off Christmas Gifts (MC Gym)
1:30 pm Girl Scouts Meeting (GR 2)
3:30 pm Children’s RCIA (MC 2)
5:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal (School Room 602)
6:00 pm Youth Ministry Middle School Ignite (School Gym/Café)
6:30 pm Bible Study Eucharist Class (School Foreign Language Room)
6:30 pm Evening Prayer (Church Crying Room)
6:30 pm School Board Meeting (Café)
7:00 pm Parish Advent Penance Service (Church)
7:30 pm Boy Scouts Meeting (MC Gym)

Wednesday, December 12

10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (MC Gym)
2:15 pm Girl Scouts Meeting (GR 1)
6:30 pm Cub Scouts Meeting (School Cafeteria)
7:00 pm Youth Ministry Empowered in Christ (MC 2)
7:00 pm Men of God Meeting (GR 1)
7:00 pm Home School Assoc. Meeting (MC 3)
7:00 pm RCIC Meeting (Room 702)
7:00 pm Youth Ministry SWAT Team (MC Basement)

Thursday, December 13

1:30 pm Girl Scouts Meeting (Daisies) (GR 1)
2:15 pm Girl Scout Meeting (GR 2)
6:00 pm Band Concert (School Gym)
6:30 pm Youth Ministry Middle School EDGE(MC Gym)
7:00 pm Ladies of the Lord (GR 1&2)

Friday, December 14

9:00 am MOMS Playgroup (MC Basement)
6:00 pm American Heritage Girls Troop Meeting (School Caf/Gym/Library)
7:00 pm Boy Scouts Religious Emblem Meeting (MC 2)

Saturday, December 15

9:15 am FFF Christmas Pageant (School Gym/ Classrooms/Cafeteria)
12:00 pm Rosary (Church)

Sunday, December 16

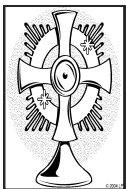
10:30 am New Parishioner Social (GR 1)
5:30 pm Youth Ministry Life Teen (MC Gym/Café Basement)

BECOME AN "ANGEL" JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS

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

"Do This In Remembrance of Me"

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



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

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

Out of Parish

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS: Cardinal O'Hara High School will continue one of its longest running traditions with a Greccio pageant that depicts St. Francis of Assisi's first live crib scene in 1223. Greccio starts at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 12, followed by a Christmas concert of holiday favorites in the performing arts center. The concert is free and open to the public. Prior to Greccio, the music department will host a spaghetti dinner fundraiser from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the student dining room. Eat-in or take-out is available. Tickets are \$8 presale, \$10 at door and may be purchased by calling O'Hara at 695-2600, ext. 312.

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS Join us in preparing for Advent. The CMA is sponsoring Lessons & Carols at Saints Peter & Paul Parish on Main Street in Williamsville on Friday, December 14 at 7:30 pm. There will be Scripture readings followed by a cappella singing provided by the St. John Paul II Schola Cantorum. This is a family event that is free to the public; a free-will offering will be collected to donate to a local charity. Refreshments will be served afterwards. Prepare for the gift of the Christ Child.

Catholic Cemeteries Annual Christmas Mass. The Catholic Cemeteries invites you to join us as we pray, sing, remember and celebrate together in the spirit of the season at our annual Christmas Mass at the following locations: Thursday, December 27, at 5:30 pm at Mount Olivet Cemetery, 4000 Elmwood Ave., Kenmore with Msgr. Francis Weldgen as celebrant; Thursday, December 27, at 5:30 pm at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, 500 Riverdale Ave., Lewiston with Fr. Jacek Mazur as celebrant; Friday, December 28, at 5:30 pm at Holy Cross Cemetery, 2900 South Park Ave., Lackawanna with Msgr. Paul Litwin as celebrant; and Friday, December 28, at 5:30 pm at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, 3063 Harlem Rd., Cheektowaga with Msgr. Peter Popadick as celebrant. For more information, call 716-873-6500.

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

Parish Weekend Office Hours

Our Parish Office is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 8

Vigil Masses

- 4:00 pm Ann Marie Bene by Richard Bene
Richard J. Vivacqua (anniv)
by Mary Kate Vivacqua
- 5:30 pm Rose & Earl Rinaldo and JoAnne West
by West, Rinaldo & Brand Families

Sunday, December 9 – Second Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 am Nicholas M. Iannarelli
by John & Colleen Nettina
- 9:30 am Dr. Bernie Kolber, Sr. & Alice Kolber
by Michelle Bertola
Joseph Yageric by Prayer Chain
- 11:00 am Sandra & Michael Wojtowicz
by Mother, Mary Ann & Family
Rose Hoelscher by Grabenstatter
Roeder and Sherrer Families
Donald Wania by Anthony & Judy Picone
- 12:30 pm Vincent Dentico by Victor Liberatore
& Bueme Families
Donald Wania by Anthony & Judy Picone
- 1:30 pm Baptisms
- 4:30 pm Norine & Dick Neumeister by Family

Monday, December 10

- 7:00 am Parishioners of St. Gregory's
- 8:00 am Rev. Msgr. Robert B. McNamara by Priests
of St. Gregory's
Christopher T. McPartlan by Adrienne
& Jack Kerr
- 12:00 pm Paul Scandarito & Sam Rizzo by Wife,
Margo
Shirley Blessing
by Joe & Bonnie LaRotonda

Tuesday, December 11

- 7:00 am Besanti & Craiglow Families
by Dawn & Sam Curazzato
Lillian & Norman Krapf
by Bob & Fran Krapf
- 8:00 am Dr. Thomas Hassenfratz by Wife, Donna
- 12:00 pm Nancy M. Baxter
by Vern & Sarah Anderson
Dr. James P. Giambone by Wife, Judy
& Grandchildren

Wednesday, December 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe

- 7:00 am Roselyn M. Murphy (anniv) by Family
John Antonucci by Ken & Debbie Kistner
- 8:00 am Dwight Holbrook by Corra Family
- 12:00 pm Richard Levea by Wife
Rose Hoelscher by Sandra Monin

Thursday, December 13 – St. Lucy

- 7:00 am John & Joyce Ambrosoli by Estate
- 8:00 am Donald Wania by Marisa & Joe Piazza
(School Mass) Fr. Stanislaw Dudek by Priests
of St. Gregory's
- 12:00 pm Marie Smith (birth) by Family
Joseph Lakatos by Wife & Family

Friday, December 14 – St. John of the Cross

- 7:00 am Richard Romanowski by Estate
John Tronolone by Family
- 8:00 am Charles Oliver by Wife, Karen
- 12:00 pm Frank Vitellaro by Margaret Estes
Theresa Campagna
by Dr. Albert & Frances Menno

Saturday, December 15

- 8:00 am Francis M. Murphy (anniv) by Family
Edward J. & Natalie F. Mack by Estate

Vigil Masses

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

Sunday, December 16 – Third Sunday of Advent

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

DECEASED

Kristine M. Brewer
David C. Haumesser

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.

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Msr. Thomas Maloney (305);

FatherThomas@stgregs.org

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

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Deacon Paul Walter; PWalter@stgregs.org

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688-5760 Fax: 639-8251

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

* * * * *

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PARISH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY

8:30 am - 4:00 pm

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Mass Schedule

SATURDAY: 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm

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

HOLY DAYS: As listed in the Bulletin.

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

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

Catholic Store & Café

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

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

Sacraments

BAPTISM

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

PENANCE (CONFESSIONS)

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

WEDDINGS

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

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

MINISTRY TO SICK, HOSPITALIZED, AND SHUT-INS

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

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

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

Prayer and Devotion

PERPETUAL ADORATION

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

PRAYER

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

Our Mission

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

- *Spiritual focus*
- *Knowledge and understanding of our Faith and our Church*
- *Spirit of welcome and reconciliation*
- *Compassion and concern for those in need*
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