

SAINT GREGORY THE GREAT PARISH

PARISH COMMUNITY LIVING
THE GOSPEL . . .

~ IN FAITH
~ IN WORSHIP
~ IN SERVICE

December 14 & 15, 2019
Second Sunday of Advent



MESSAGE FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR



My Dear Parish Family,

This Sunday is Gaudete Sunday or “Rejoice” Sunday. The third Sunday of Advent always calls us to rejoice in the midst of our Advent preparation of penance, reflection and prayer. Why? Why are we called to rejoice especially this year when we have and still are suffering so much as a Diocese and Church throughout the world? Why are we called to rejoice in the midst of personal suffering, illness and hardships?

This Sunday the prophet Isaiah reminds us that flowers will still bloom even in the desert. Isaiah gives us hope! We are people of hope and hope triumphs over suffering, death and burdens. St. James, in the second reading this weekend, gives us the key ingredients to hope in the midst of suffering. He tells us to be patient, firm and positive. The message of Advent which is the message of John the Baptist is that God has heard his people’s plea and has sent us a Savior, Jesus Christ.

The goal of a Catholic, and indeed all Christians, is to rejoice always and to especially strive to rejoice in the midst of suffering and difficulty because we have a never-ending hope. Do you have that hope? Are you able to embrace suffering rather than repel it? What is your focus of life? I suppose the ultimate old question: “Is the glass half empty or half full?”

Last weekend we hosted the annual Diocesan Scout Retreat at St. Greg’s. It was Friday overnight through Saturday evening. All of the discussions we had with the 19 Scouts who made the retreat focused on joy, and in particular the joy we glean from living the spiritual focus of the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. We looked upon our ability to actually listen to God as did Mary in the Annunciation and how we can respond with a full “yes” and not with a conditional or partial one. We looked on the call to go out and serve even in the midst of our own needs, as Mary did in the Visitation with her cousin Elizabeth. We looked at how we witness the birth or the “breaking into

the world today” of Jesus; and our call to bring our belief in the Nativity of old and the Nativity of Jesus being born through our words and actions. We looked at how we ponder Jesus’ real presence, especially in the Eucharist, and can be filled with awe and wonder today as Mary was in the Presentation in the Temple. Mary pondered and treasured all of what Simeon and Anna spoke about the baby Jesus. We too can ponder and treasure and be filled with awe each time we come to Eucharistic Adoration. Our Scouts experienced that as we celebrated Adoration with them. Some of the Scouts mentioned their feelings of peace and freedom from their problems as I led them in meditation during Adoration. Finally, we reflected on the call to “be about the Father’s business” in our lives as Jesus asked his parents “did you not know I must be about my Father’s business” when they found him in the Temple in the fifth and final decade of the Joyful Mysteries.

In my small-group discussion, I asked the Scouts if they see their peers in school smile. I received a rather unanimous “no” in reply. We discussed that fewer and fewer people smile today. Our youth notice it and many of us adults also have noticed it. Why? Perhaps we have lost

(Pastor’s Article Continued on Page 2)

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: _____

(Pastor's Article Continued)

our joy and our hope, and this Advent is the call to re-discover it. Flowers do bloom in the desert. I was in the desert in Israel and Jordan and I have been in the desert in Arizona. I have seen beautiful flowers bloom in the midst of what seems to be a dry, barren wasteland. Do you see the flowers blooming in our midst during this challenging time?

In a time when the Diocese has a crisis we had 19 Scouts volunteer to be part of an overnight retreat – flowers in the desert. This weekend we had record numbers (registration at the time of writing this article is about 70 junior- high teens of St. Greg's) sign up to participate in the overnight middle-school youth ministry weekend on our property. These are flowers in the desert. Last week we experienced an awesome Night of Advent Reflection lead by members of our own staff (Michael Cygan, Nancy Erdman, Brian Ruh, Nicole Janacek and Father Paul and myself). There were a couple hundred parishioners in attendance. I have received numerous phone calls, text messages notes and e-mails thanking me for so wonderful a night. Flowers in the desert! The weekend after Thanksgiving we had an awesome Craft Show. I know we had over 1800 people come just on Friday and probably over 3000 by the end of Saturday. We thank Lori Cinquino for her, and her family's, great effort every year to provide this craft show. This year some in the community referred to it as an "event not to be missed" and "second in size only to the one in Letchworth State Park." Flowers in the desert! In November we had our Parish Auction and witnessed about a twenty-five percent increase in both attendance as well as profit to assist with running our school and parish ministries. Flowers in the midst of the desert! Also in November we had over forty of our Young Adults from St. Greg's participate in the annual Young-Adult three-day weekend retreat. Flowers in the desert – alive and well!

This weekend ask yourself if you see the flowers in the desert? Do you see the hope and joy? Is the glass half full or half empty? Ultimately we become what we focus upon. If we see the hope of God in the midst of suffering, we will be hopeful; if we see only despair and pain, we will become despair itself.

Finally, we welcome, Bishop Edward Scharfenberger to our Diocese of Buffalo. He serves as our Administrator until Pope Francis appoints a new Bishop for our Diocese. Please pray for Bishop Scharfenberger as he leads us and please see this time of transition as a time of hope and promise in the midst of our Diocesan suffering. Welcome Bishop Scharfenberger!

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

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 5 of the Bulletin, our website, or our social media sites.

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 or 688-5678 ext. 303 by December 9.

HOLY FAMILY - \$600 EACH

Baby Jesus, 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)

WHAT'S THE GOOD WORD?

One of the areas of focus for evangelization is reaching out to the 2600 families we have not seen in years and discern why they no longer celebrate with us and invite them back. We have connected with over 200 families, so far, and I would like to share two quick stories that show the fruits of our efforts. After speaking with a mom with two children, we discovered they never made their First Communion. After connecting this family with Joan Rischmiller, our Director of Family Faith Formation, these youth are now closer to receiving the Eucharist. Another story I share involves speaking with a young woman who recently graduated, found a job out of state, is newly engaged and connected with a parish in Philadelphia. She and her fiancé will be taking Pre-CANA classes there and planning to get married back here at St. Greg's.



St. Gregory the Great School



PEN PALS

Grade 3 students, from homeroom 302, recently participated in a pen pals program with Niagara University, where they wrote back and forth to college students who are studying to become teachers. A pen pal notebook was passed between participants as students got to know each other. This continued throughout the fall semester, culminating with a Pen Pals Celebration, where participants were able to meet each other in person over snacks and a good book. Both the St. Greg's and NU students enjoyed meeting their pen pals, along with taking a few goofy photo booth pictures!



Two years ago, our current Grade 6 students began an initiative to create more community in our school lunchroom. The student-led project came alive when the students presented their idea to the School Board last fall. These students conducted research, noting that building strong relationships was fundamental in growing a positive school environment. The result from their brainstorming was to create a new lunchroom that would have a lasting impact for years to come. Our core at St. Greg's is to build lasting relationships. We are thrilled to announce that your children had the opportunity to sit at the new cafeteria tables today!

Not only are we one of the only local schools to establish an inclusive lunchroom, but our new configuration will provide your children a chance to sit with new students each day, promoting community throughout. We have also incorporated board games and activities to help develop social skills among our students. Many St. Greg's ministries use this space daily and this new environment will allow for a shared campus community that we can all take pride in.

Our hope is that the new 21st century design will create a sense of community and respect. It has been proven that smaller group environments help to develop stronger relationships between students which lead to overall positivity. We want our students and visitors to connect with each other in this smaller group setting.

We are thrilled with the setup and look forward to the friendships that will develop with this new cafeteria design. Thank you to our parents and staff who helped with this project, from the funding of the Great Dinner Auction item, to meeting with designers, to helping assemble and set up the tables. We are grateful to each of you for your continued support of our school and our students. Thank you Fr. Paul, Fr. Moses, and Seminarian Joe for coming by to bless the new cafeteria! It truly takes a village to create positive change!



Students from Grade 2, 3, 7, and 8 made Thanksgiving cards with their partner prayers for St. Luke's Mission. Lindsey Simon, Grade 6-8 Religion Teacher, took the cards to share with those who attended on Thanksgiving for food and/or shelter.

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

FFF UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION:

December FFF Outreach: Christmas Gift Collection

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

Classes resume on the following dates:

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

Monday Classes: January 6

Generations of Faith Session C: January 9

Saturday Classes: January 11



SOME NOVEMBER CONFIRMATION RETREAT HIGHLIGHTS: Confirmation candidates' catechetical knowledge was challenged by Fr. Leon's Catholic Trivia Game (above) and Fr. Paul discussed, "Breaking the Chains; how our Faith can bring you true freedom" (below) .



www.stgregs.org/familyfaithformation

CITY OF GOOD NEIGHBORS

Buffalo has the well-earned reputation of being "The City of Good Neighbors". Maybe consider, as an act of hospitality, asking a neighbor/friend/relative if they're planning to go to Christmas Mass this year. One of the easiest places to start is by having a conversation. Even in a passing chat about the weather, ask if they're planning on going to Christmas Mass this year. Many people are entertaining the thought already. And even if they're not, you may be planting a seed. One of the most common hesitations potential visitors have is not knowing anyone at the church. Resolve some of it by offering to attend with them.

OPLATKI CHRISTMAS HOSTS

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

CATECHIST'S CORNER

A CATECHIST'S PRAYER....

Prayer to Saint Nicholas (December 6 Feast Day)

O good St. Nicholas, you who are the joy of the children, put in my heart the spirit of childhood, which the gospel speaks, and teach me to seed happiness around me. You, whose feast prepares us for Christmas, open my faith to the mystery of God made man. You, good bishop and shepherd, help me to find my place in the Church and inspire the Church to be faithful to the gospel. O good Saint Nicholas, patron of children, sailors and the helpless, watch over those who pray to Jesus, your Lord and theirs, as well as over those who humble themselves before you. Bring us all in reverence to the Holy Child of Bethlehem, when true joy and peace are found. Amen.

St. Lucy (December 13 Feast Day) In Denmark, Norway and Sweden, girls dress as St. Lucy (in white dresses with a red sash and wear a crown or wreath of candles on their heads) while they carry rolls and cookies in procession as songs are sung. It is said that to celebrate St. Lucy's Day will help one live the long winter days with enough light.

St. John of the Cross (December 14 Feast Day) Excerpt from *Sayings of Light and Love* by **St. John of the Cross**, "In tribulation, immediately draw near to God with trust, and you will receive strength, enlightenment, and instruction. "

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!



CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Children's Choir will have one last rehearsal on Tuesday, December 17, from 4:30 to 5:30 pm in preparation for Christmas Day 9:30 am Mass.

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass rehearsal is on Tuesday, December 17, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in Church for Choir and Hand Bells. We will not practice for Sunday's 11:00 am Mass. The next practice for Sunday Adult Choir will take place on Tuesday, January 7.

Christmas Eve 4:00 pm Mass in Church has an ensemble rehearsal on Thursday, December 19, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in Gathering Room 2. Questions? Contact Nancy Erdman at NErdman@stgregs.org or call 688-5678, Ext. 308.

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 Youth Ministry.



or

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.

DAILY ADVENT - REFLECTIONS

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

- 1) Go to www.dynamiccatholic.com
- 2) Click on "Best Advent Ever"
- 3) Complete the requested information.

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

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 PM

NEW YEAR'S MASSES

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



SAVE THE DATE



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

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 to volunteer or have any questions. Volunteering for this would count as service hours.



DRESS REHEARSAL: December 19 @ 7:00 pm in the School Cafeteria.

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 to volunteer or have any questions. Volunteering for this would count as service hours.

DRESS REHEARSAL: December 19 @ 7:00 pm in the School Cafeteria.

AUG 2



SAVE THE DATE

2020



ST. GREG'S 60TH ALUMNI EVENT

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.



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. Mail-In registration forms are available online at 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. 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 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

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.

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!



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Adorers are needed for all times and days. Please call Kathy at 759-7149 or Barbara at 634-7478 with a time that is convenient for you.

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

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

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

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

JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS

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

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

MINISTRY UPDATES

SENIOR CITIZENS

December 16 is our Annual Christmas Luncheon at Russell's Steak House. Lunch will be served at 1:00 pm.

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.



The M and M fundraiser brought in a little over \$1000 to help support Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Thank you to all who participated in this yummy event.

PARISH ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Sunday, December 15

- 1:30 pm Baptisms
- 3:00 pm Worship Ensemble Rehearsal (*Church*)
- 5:30 pm Life Teen (*MC Gym, Basement, Caf *)

Monday, December 16

- 6:00 pm SWAT (*MC Basement*)
- 7:30 pm Troop 440 Leadership Mtg. (*MC 1*)

Tuesday, December 17

- 4:30 pm Parish Children's Choir Practice (*GR 2*)
- 6:00 pm School Board Mtg. (*GR1*)
- 6:45 pm Cub Scout Pack 440 Mtg. (*Sch. Cafeteria, Gym*)
- 7:00 pm Christmas Choir Rehearsal (*Church*)
- 7:00 pm Parish Advent Penance Service (*Church*)
- 7:30 pm BSA Troop 444 Mtg. (*MC Gym*)
- 8:00 pm (11:00 Mass) Adult Choir Rehearsal (*GR 2*)

Wednesday, December 18

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

Thursday, December 19

- 6:30 pm EDGE (*MC Gym, Foyer, Basement*)
- 6:30 pm One Way Home Rehearsal (*Church*)

Friday, December 20

Saturday, December 21

Sunday, December 22

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



SGYM3 Thanksgiving Football Game. It was for Grades 5- 12 at Bassett Park. Just a little something fun that is done each year.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 14

Vigil Masses

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

Sunday, December 15– Third Sunday of Advent

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

Monday, December 16

- 7:00 am Parishioners of St. Gregory the Great
8:00 am Dottie Hoffman by Dad, Julie, Alan, A.J.
& Stephen
12:00 pm Grace Everett (Living) (1st Anniversary
of Baptism) by Barbara Voigt

Tuesday, December 17

- 7:00 am Mary Beth D'Andrea by Frank & Joan
D'Andrea
8:00 am Molly Willett by Family
12:00 pm Deceased Members of Boehler & Hurley
Families by Margaret H. Boehler
Marjorie Ann Roehling by Vern & Sarah
Anderson

Wednesday, December 18

- 7:00 am John & Joyce Ambrosoli by Estate
8:00 am Anthony Pinzone by Spinley Family
12:00 pm Joseph W. Coutu & Edward Spellman
by Family

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY...

...is a wonderful Italian tradition that takes place on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22, when children from around the world gather in the piazza of St. Peter's to present their Baby Jesus to the Pope for his special blessing. Be sure to bring your infant Jesus to Mass on **December 21 and 22 for this special blessing.**

Thursday, December 19

- 7:00 am John Tronolone by Family
8:00 am Bernice Allen by Allen, Benson and Gerrish
Families
Stanley George by Angelina George
(School Mass)
12:00 pm Franklin M. Boehler by Wife & Family
Dennis Zion (Anniversary) by Sandra Zion

Friday, December 20

- 7:00 am Christopher Gatto by Mom
Dr. Richard R. Romanowski by Estate
8:00 am Anne G. Wittig (Birthday) by Husband,
Roger
12:00 pm Deceased Members of Schill, Shettler, &
Smith Families by Family
Thomas Zurek by Family

Saturday, December 21–St. Peter Canisius

- 8:00 am Anthony Ferace by Barbara Pelosi

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

CANDLE, HOST AND WINE REMEMBRANCE

Diane Egger by George & Family

DECEASED

David Daniels
Rita Ellsworth
Joseph A. Dunn
Michael S. Holden

PARISH OFFICE

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

PASTOR

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

PAROCHIAL VICARS

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FatherThomas@stgregs.org

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

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Deacon Michael G. Bochiechio

Deacon Paul Walter; PWalter@stgregs.org

PASTORAL YEAR SEMINARIAN

Joseph Tokasz jtokasz@stgregs.org

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

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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

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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,

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- ◇ *Knowledge and understanding of our Faith and our Church*
- ◇ *Spirit of welcome and reconciliation*
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- ◇ *Generous sharing of our God-given talents and resources*

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