

SPirit AND LIfe

St. Gregory the Great Parish
Summer 2021

Greg Gaulin begins Ministry as Permanent Deacon

Greg Gaulin's work career reached an apex in July 2016 with his appointment as Director of Technical Training for the Regional Transit Service in Rochester. "I absolutely love what I am doing," he told *Spirit and Life* recently. "To me, it is a ministry. I help people acquire a set of skills, which enables them to attain higher levels of proficiency in their work, and therefore better provide for their families."

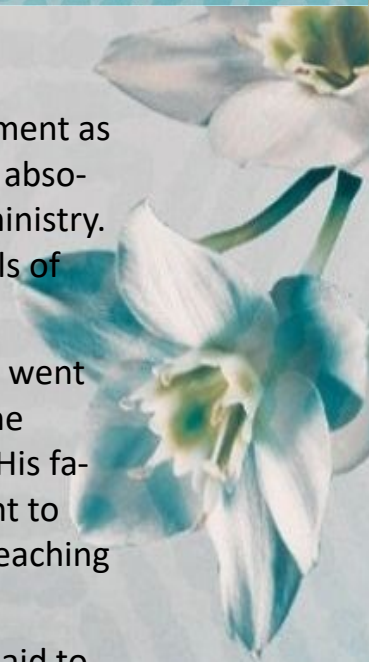
A 1974 graduate of Bishop Newman High School in Williamsville, Greg went on to study automotive technology at Morrisville. Cars were in the very air he breathed growing up with his seven siblings in Saints Peter and Paul Parish. His father operated several gas stations and repair shops. After Morrisville he went to work for his dad, and put in three decades of work. He was simultaneously teaching automotive technology at Erie Community College.

Soon after his elder brother John was ordained a Deacon in 2008, he said to Greg, "You should think about becoming a Deacon." Greg replied, "John, don't be ridiculous. I don't have what it takes."

"But his words sort of planted a tiny seed in my heart," Greg recalls. "So I did think about it. I decided to look into it, and eventually entered the five year Diaconal Formation Program at Christ the King Seminary. After getting the position in Rochester in 2016, I wasn't sure if my becoming a Deacon would interfere with that ministry, since I commute each day to Rochester. Bishop Malone assured me that it would not, so I went on to complete my formation program."

Greg is grateful for the many people who have supported him on his path to ordination, especially his wife Christine. The Gaulins have three daughters: Nicole, a physician working at Roswell Park in gynecological oncology; Heather, who is a specialist in advertising on social media; and Danielle, who recently earned her Masters in Social Work.

Deacon Greg was ordained on May 22 by Bishop Michael Fisher.



June is Stewardship of Talent Month

Edmund Burke was a Member of the British Parliament around the time of the American Revolution. One day he addressed his colleagues and told them, “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good people do nothing.” Burke summed up rather concisely an essential Catholic teaching, and one of the themes of our parish’s Stewardship of Talent campaign.

We pray “Thy Kingdom Come; Thy Will Be Done” in the Lord’s Prayer. We are praying that the will of God prevail on earth, as it does in Heaven. It’s quite obvious that God’s will is not being done in many areas of human existence. We are called as Catholics not only to pray for God’s will to be done, but to roll up our sleeves and use our God-given gifts and talents to help make that happen. We are called to use God’s gifts to do God’s work here on earth.

Do you remember the story of the little boy with his five loaves of bread and a couple of fish? He must have thought, “The need is so very great, and I have so little to give.” Fortunately he believed that Jesus needed the little he had, so he gave it generously, and the rest, as they say, is history. Many people do not respond to the Lord’s request, because they think they have so little to give. They should remember the boy and his loaves, and the person who said, “I am only one person. I can’t do everything. Still, I am one person, and I can do something.”

The parish leadership is extending an invitation, in the name of Jesus, to all our parishioners to consider getting involved in one or more ways. We anticipate coming to the end of our Covid confinement and the reflowering of parish life as we prepare for another scholastic and social year this September.

STEWARDSHIP OF TALENT

“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service, but the same Lord; there are different workings, but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.”

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Using God's Gifts to do God's Work

Here are some of the ways you can use God's gifts to do God's work. If you are interested in one or more of these possibilities, check the appropriate line on the Response Card and return the card to the Parish Office. Someone will contact you to provide further information and answer your questions. Your check mark is not a commitment, but simply an indication of interest.

ALTAR SERVER. Young boys and girls in Grade 5 and up assist at one of the weekend Masses, usually once or twice a month. They serve as good role models for younger children, and come closer to the Lord as they assist the priest at liturgy.

BEDS FOR KIDS. As many as 10,000 kids in Buffalo do not have a decent place to sleep. This has a negative effect on

their self-esteem, their success at school, and their overall happiness. A group headed by our parishioners Jerry and Mary Jo Sheldon



and Rick and Betsy DiVita are engaged in building beds in a workshop in Eastern Hills Mall, equipping the beds with mattresses and blankets, and delivering them to super-grateful young people. You can make a difference! Check "Beds for Kids" on the Response Card to find out how you can help.

CATECHIST. Family Faith Formation has a number of openings for volunteers serving as religion teachers, classroom aides, and hall monitors



◇ Summer Programs take place Friday, June 25, to Thursday, July 1, for Grades 5-8, with

morning and afternoon sessions.

- ◇ Weekly programs beginning in September include Monday from 4:45 to 5:45 pm for Grades K through 4 and 7 to 8:00 pm for Grades 5 thru 10; also Saturday morning from 9:00 am to 10:00 am for Grades K thru 8.
- ◇ Generations of Faith programs take place once a month on Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings.

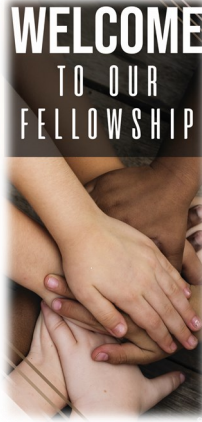
CHILDREN'S CHOIR. Children in Grade 3 and up can use their musical ability to enhance several Church liturgies throughout the year. All young parishioners are invited to belong. Several rehearsals take place on weekdays after school.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER. Men and women assist in distributing Holy Communion at Mass, serving about twice a month, usually at the same weekend Mass. Some also take the Eucharist to people who cannot come to Church, on their way home from Church.



FUNERAL SERVER. Men and women who serve as crossbearer and acolytes at funeral liturgies, thereby enhancing the dignity and decorum of the Mass of Christian Burial, and being a source of comfort for bereaving families.

GREETER AT WEEKEND MASS. Adults and children spend fifteen minutes before weekend Masses offering a warm smile and a friendly hello to people arriving at Church. They serve at a Mass of their choosing, as often as they would like.



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

A group that seeks ways and means to encourage their fellow parishioners to give back to God a portion of their time, their talent and their treasure.

LIFE CHAIN PARTICIPANT.



On the first Sunday of October, Life Chain takes place throughout the United

LIFE CHAIN States. For one hour in the afternoon participants stand in silent testimony to the horror of abortion, holding signs such as “Adoption not Abortion” and “Choose Life”. Each year hundreds of St. Greg parishioners take part in this event.

RESPIRE VOLUNTEER. “Respite” is the name of a service provided by the parish Health Ministry. Once a month on a Saturday from 10:30 til 2:00, people with dementia come to the Gathering Rooms where they enjoy lunch, table puzzles, crafts, picture bingo, and other diversions. This allows their usual caregiver to take a break and have some time for themselves. Volunteers are needed to help at these monthly sessions.

SCHOOL VOLUNTEER. Adults spend time helping the school maintain its high standards of excellence. They serve as clerical workers in the office, story readers for younger children, classroom helpers, cafeteria monitors, and in other ways.



USHER AT WEEKEND MASS. Ushers greet parishioners, help them find seats, prepare the Offertory procession, take up the collection, and see to the orderly distribution of Holy Communion. They generally serve at the same Mass each weekend.

VINCENTIANS. Frederick Ozonam, a student at the University of Paris, gathered some fellow students about him to care for the needs of the poor, in imitation of St. Vincent de Paul. From the humble beginning in the middle of the nineteenth century the society has grown to where it exists in virtually every Catholic parish in the world. The St. Gregory the Great chapter is especially active and vibrant.

Members are called “Vincentians,” and they are involved in:

- ◇ Prison ministry at Wende, presenting “Kairos”, a weekend retreat for inmates.
- ◇ Visiting the sick at Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital.
- ◇ Home visits to families in need, providing them with furniture, household goods, and food.
- ◇ Conducting food drives in order to feed the hungry.
- ◇ Financial support for the Society’s Soup Kitchen on Main Street in Buffalo.
- ◇ Membership in the St. Vincent de Paul Society is open to both men and women.



WELCOME WAGON VISITOR. People who have recently moved into our area are visited by teams of two volunteers, often on Saturday morning. The visitors welcome the newcomers to their new neighborhood, and present a welcome packet consisting of a few gifts and information about St. Gregory Parish. Visitors make their calls every four to six weeks.

YOUTH MINISTRY. Our parish has an outstanding ministry to youth, with two full-time ministers and lots of programs. If you have a love of young people, consider lending some time. Opportunities range from being a core team member, to providing occasional snacks and baked goods.



STEWARDSHIP OF TALENT COMMITMENT FORM

I am interested in obtaining more information about the items I have checked:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Altar Servers | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Chain participant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beds for Kids | <input type="checkbox"/> Respite Volunteer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Catechist | <input type="checkbox"/> School Volunteer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Choir | <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eucharistic Minister | <input type="checkbox"/> Usher at Weekend Mass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Funeral Server | <input type="checkbox"/> Vincentians |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greeter at Weekend Mass | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Are there any other ministries you would be interested in learning more about? Please list below.

Please print and return to the Parish Office by mail (200 St. Gregory Court, Williamsville, NY, 14221), drop it off in the vestibule or with your weekly envelop at Mass.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

The Mail Box

Dear Padre:

I am a senior citizen, and have been for several years. I am definitely in the December days of my life. I am plagued by the thought that there are sins I have not confessed. I am not sure if I confessed all of my youthful transgressions. I cannot remember if I did. I am memory challenged.



Dear Memory Challenged,

When a person has made a good confession, all his sins are forgiven, even the ones he forgot to confess. A good confession is one that includes an honest examination of conscience, sincere contrition, and a desire to avoid sin and the near occasions of sin. Failure to confess a mortal sin one is aware of would render the Sacrament invalid. Confession is not about how good your memory is. It is about the sincerity of your sorrow. You may, of course, always include a sin from your past life in any confession. Simply end with “I am sorry for these and all the sins of my life, especially for...” You can also end with, “I am sorry for these and all my sins, especially those I cannot remember.”

The Padre

Stay Connected to Your Parish!

If you have moved, locally or out of the area, or if you are no longer a parishioner at St. Gregory the Great, please email bulletin@stgregs.org with your updated contact information. We continue to work on our records to ensure our mailed communications, emails, and phone system are current. With all the changes in WNY related to Covid, it is more important that ever to **STAY CONNECTED TO YOUR PARISH!**

Receive spiritual quotes, learn about upcoming events, closings, cancellations and updates within the Parish, School, Family Faith Formation and Youth Ministry:

- ◇ Download the St. Gregory the Great Parish Mobile App
 - ◇ iPhone users text: *ParishApp1* to 555888
 - ◇ Android users text: *ParishApp2* to 555888, follow prompts
- ◇ Follow us on Social Media: @StGregsBuffalo, @stgregsthegreat, @stgregsyouth, @stgregsyounadults
- ◇ Subscribe to our YouTube Channel: @stgregswilliamsville



Our Virtual Jamaica Mission Team Needs Your Help!

By Jillian Kajdas

One of my continuous take-aways from our annual mission trip to Jamaica is appreciation for the “little” things in life. Having a two-year hiatus from visiting our home in Jamaica has been tough, but remembering everything that the residents have taught me has been nothing less than humbling. Unconditional love. Laughter. Family. These are things the pandemic did not take from me. Thanks to the residents in Jamaica, I have realized that hope is all around me.

Our friends in Jamaica haven’t lost a day of care, but they are struggling through this pandemic just as we are. Mustard Seed Communities has lost a lot of their income due to the fact that there hasn’t been a mission team there in over a year. As a non-profit, they rely heavily on donations from mission trip volunteers to support and care for the residents. So this year, we are virtually traveling to Jamaica in order to continue our support for them. We are challenging ourselves as a mission team to raise \$12,000.

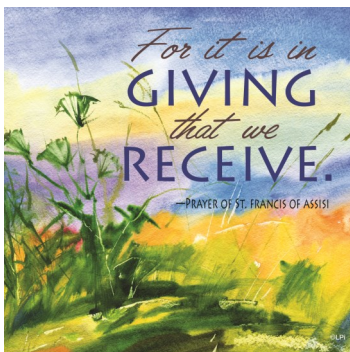
There are a few ways you can help. First and foremost, please keep in your prayers the residents at Mustard Seed and the caregivers who have given up time with their own families to quarantine.

If you would like to make a donation, you can go to our fundraising website <https://bit.ly/2Pd1ryd>, or send a check, payable to St. Gregory the Great, with memo “Jamaica Mission Trip” to the Parish Office, Attn: Jamaica Mission Trip, 200 St. Gregory Ct., Williamsville, NY 14221.

We are also hosting a drive-thru Chicken BBQ at St. Greg’s on **Friday, July 16, from 4:00 pm -7:00 pm**. Please keep an eye on the Bulletin for details. Thank you as always for your generous support!

Share-a-prayer

Our prayer this time comes from a reader in the Olean area, who writes, “I found this somewhere and over the years have made copies for my children and grand-children.”



Family Bonds

Today I pray for my family, for those who have stood by me in times of sorrow and times of joy, for those who sit beside me day after day and remind me that I am loved beyond measure. Keep my family safe, Lord, and protect them from harm. In the arms of my family I find the closest earthly connection to You. Let me also remember to appreciate and celebrate the gift of family love. Amen.

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Great Happenings for our Faith Community

- ⇒ June 12—FIAT
- ⇒ June 18—The Great Race Chicken and Rib BBQ
- ⇒ June 24— Grade 8 Students Graduation
- ⇒ June 26— Blood Drive
- ⇒ June 30— Live Play: God's Son. . . My Son
- ⇒ July 10—FIAT
- ⇒ July 16— Mission Trip Chicken and Rib BBQ
- ⇒ July 28— Live Speaker Fr. Rob Contarin
- ⇒ August 14— The Great Shred Event Returns
- ⇒ August 14— FIAT
- ⇒ August 25— Movie Showing: "The Staircase"

MASS SCHEDULE CHANGE FOR SUMMER

For the months of July and August
we will not have a Sunday 4:30
pm Mass. This Mass time will
resume in September.



St. Gregory the Great
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH