

# SAINT GREGORY THE GREAT

PARISH COMMUNITY

LIVING THE GOSPEL . . .

~ IN FAITH

~ IN WORSHIP

~ IN SERVICE



*First Sunday of Advent*

*December 1 & 2, 2018*

**From the desk of Fr. Tom**

Dear Parish family,

As we prepare for Fr. Leon's return from sabbatical (Wow, these five months went by fast), let me take a moment to thank all of you for your thoughts and prayers as I finish my term as Temporary Administrator and return to my role as Parochial Vicar at St. Greg's.

My goal for the five months as Temporary Administrator was to guide the parish through nice calm waters. No big decisions and no big problems. But as the saying goes, "We make plans and God laughs." The past five months have been anything but smooth or calm. We have, due to outside events, faced great adversity, both as a Parish and as a Diocese. While I have limited experience in pastoral leadership, I have tried my best to lead the St. Greg's community during this difficult time. Any success I had during these five months are due to the grace of our Lord. Any failures or shortcomings are mine alone.

I have been careful in the positions that I've taken regarding the crisis that the Diocese of Buffalo is facing, for several reasons. The most important one is that we are still in the midst of this crisis. It is not over nor can I foresee when it will conclude or how it will conclude. Thus, as new facts become known, my thoughts, opinion, and feelings could change. As I would expect yours could as well.

So, as we go through this dark night of our Diocese, I would like to suggest to you there is a beacon of light. It is the sacramental life of the Roman Catholic Church. The Sacraments are why I am a Roman Catholic. Jesus Christ instituted the Sacraments. He handed them on to His Apostles, who in turn, down through the generations have given them to us. If our focus is on the Sacraments, then the sins of individuals, and even the sins of the institution, will not shake our faith. Our faith in Jesus Christ and the sacramental life He instituted overcome all things. **(continued on page 2)**

**Advent Evening of Reflection**  
**Tuesday, December 4, 7:00-8:00 pm**

On Tuesday, December 4, we welcome Deacon Bill Hynes who will present an Advent reflection on Humility. A light reception will follow in the Gathering Room.

Also, Advent books are available at the doors of the Church.

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception—  
A Holy Day of Obligation**

Vigil Mass: Friday, December 7, at 7:00pm  
Masses: Saturday, December 8, at 8:00am & 10:00am

## **PARISH SOCIAL/ NEW PARISHIONER WELCOME**

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

## **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." Show your appreciation for the Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives. Please give generously to the second collection on **December 8 and 9** to provide care for elderly religious.

## **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!

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Mon. Dec. 3:** Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 8:5-11  
**Tues. Dec. 4:** Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24  
**Wed. Dec. 5:** Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew: 15:29-37  
**Thurs. Dec. 6:** Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew: 7:21, 24-27  
**Fri. Dec. 7:** Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew: 9:27-31  
**Sat. Dec. 8:** Genesis 3:9-15, 20 (689); Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38  
**Sun. Dec. 9:** Baruch 5:1-9 (6C); Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6

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## FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

### The habit of prayer

**Reading I** Jeremiah 33:14-16 (restoration of Jerusalem)  
**Reading II** 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2 (plea for growth in holiness)  
**Gospel** Luke 21:25-28, 34-36 (coming of the Son of Man)  
**Key Passage** Be alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man (Luke 21:36)

**Adult:** *What have been the strengths of your prayer life? What habit of prayer could you strengthen during this Advent season?*

**Child:** *What prayers will you say each day and each week during Advent?*

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## VOCATION VIEW

Christ will come again! This we have been promised. The same Christ has called us all to different vocations, and some of these include Holy Orders and Religious Life. What greater way is there to honor our Lord and King than by faithfully answering His call. If you think God is calling you, 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](http://www.buffalovocations.org)!

### INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

Sessions of Inquiry (your questions) have begun: next meeting this Wednesday, December 5, at 7:00pm in Room 702 in St. Gregory the Great School. All are welcome.

For more information call Fr. Paul Cygan at [688-5678](tel:688-5678) x 336.

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## 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. Each Oplatki is a \$1 donation.

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## (From the desk of Continued from Page 1)

In Baptism we become adopted children of God. Baptized to die and rise with Jesus Christ, we are His brothers and sisters, children of God our Father. Through our Baptism in the Catholic Church we are children of God. As young adults we recommit ourselves to the Faith in the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Sacraments of Marriage and Holy Orders are Sacraments of service. In Marriage, two people commit to the service of each other. Their exclusive love is a testament of Christ's love for His Church. In Holy Orders, a priest commits to service and love, not of one person, but all people. A priest commits to serving and loving all of God's children in celebration of the Sacraments.

Jesus also gave us the Sacraments of healing: Anointing of the Sick and Confession. Anointing of the Sick offers people the opportunity to feel the healing power and comfort of Christ in difficult times of their life. Confession allows us to seek the healing power of forgiveness. We are cleansed of our sins and made a new creation. Our world needs more forgiveness, not less.

Finally, in the Sacrament of the Eucharist we are nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ, the Bread of Life. In the Eucharist, the source and summit of our Faith, we can and we will find the strength and courage to overcome these difficult times. In its two-thousand-year history the Catholic Church has faced many dark times. She has overcome all of them because of the Eucharist. Jesus promised us that He would never abandon us. He fulfills that promise in the Sacraments. In the Eucharist, He nourish us, gives us the strength to persevere in difficult times. If we focus on the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, our faith will not waiver and our victory is assured.

Once again, I want to thank you for your support and prayers in these difficult times. I have absolute confidence in the power of the Sacraments instituted by Jesus Christ to guide us through these times. As St. Paul says, "I can do all things in Him who strengthens me."

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



## Family Faith Formation

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

**December FFF Outreach:** Students received a letter requesting gifts for the Christmas Gift Collection. Please cut out the tag and attach it to donations. Please drop off any gift donation in the School foyer. Dec. 3, 5, 6 and 8 during class time. Please do not leave gifts in Church. Thank you for your kind generosity!

### December Dates for Generations of Faith:

**Session A** Sunday, December 2, after the 9:30 am Mass  
**Session B** Sunday, December 2, 12:30 - 2:00 pm.  
**Session C** Thursday, December 6, 6:15 - 7:45pm

**First Friday Club:** Grades 5-8 students are invited to the next meeting on December 7 from 7:00 - 9:00 m in the School Cafeteria and Gym.

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



**Blanket Making Service Project  
by FFF Gr 5-8 for Harvest House  
and the Child Advocacy Center.  
44 blankets were made !!**



**Thank you so much to all of the  
GREAT parent volunteers who helped!!**



Thank you to all who attended or supported the Great Dinner Auction. The evening was a huge success. The cash/car raffle ticket was drawn and the winner has been notified.

## 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 2** 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 jeffrcrd@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, Dec. 15, at 11:00 am-2:00 pm.

## Senior Citizens

**December 5** -Wednesday, Seneca Niagara Casino, \$15 per person due at sign up, includes \$25 in slot and \$5 food. NO REFUNDS. Departs at 8:30. For booking or more information call Nancy Harkins at 631-5313.

**December 10** - Christmas Luncheon at Salvatore's - 1:00pm. \$27/Members and \$30/Guests. For information, call Dolores at 574-6405. Payment due by **December 3**. Entertainment by Tom & Diane.

**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. **Payments for trips is required when making reservations and/or a deposit on overnight trips.**

## GRIEF & LOSS PRESENTATION

You are invited to join us for the next Grief & Loss meeting on Wednesday, December 5, at 6:30 pm in Gathering Room 1. Our topic is *Self Care during the Holidays*. All are welcome as we care for ourselves and learn ways to nourish our body and spirit during the time of loss.

## 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.

## 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](mailto:stgregsmissiontrip@gmail.com).

Looking to give to a worthy cause this Christmas? Please consider donating to our Mission Trip Ministry! Go to [www.stgregs.org](http://www.stgregs.org), click on "donate now" and follow the link to our Mission Trip Donation page. Thank you for your generosity!

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### "SPIRITUAL SPINS & GRINS" From Father Francis

Our Heavenly Father never takes anything from His children unless He means to give them something better. (George Mueller)

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## St. Nicholas Advent Party

**1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**  
**Saturday, December 8th**

All children ages 12 and under are invited to attend a free St. Nicholas Advent party with their parent, grandparent, or guardian

Crafts | Music | Pizza | Refreshments | Goody Bags

r.s.v.p. via e-mail to [KofCStGregory@gmail.com](mailto:KofCStGregory@gmail.com)  
Please note the number of adults & children who will be attending  
(include ages and grades)

**Ministry Center - 100 St. Gregory Court**  
**St. Gregory the Great Roman Catholic Parish**

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus St. Gregory Council No. 14687



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## 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.

### 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.*

### St. Greg's Café

**DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!**  
**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!

### PIZZA NIGHT!

Working late at the office and don't want to cook? Stop by our Café every Wednesday night for our Specialty Pizza Night from 5:30 - 7:30 pm.

## Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Adam Jarosz: [ajarosz@stgregs.org](mailto:ajarosz@stgregs.org); Nicole Janecek: [njanecek@stgregs.org](mailto:njanecek@stgregs.org); Richard Patti: [rpatti@stgregs.org](mailto:rpatti@stgregs.org)  
~ 688-3578

**Middle School:** Visit [stgregsym.org](http://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 6, 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!

### **Middle School Mayhem December 7-8**

All middle-schoolers are invited to an entire night of awesomeness! Great games, ice cream party, and midnight mass are just a few of the things that will be happening! You don't want to miss this incredible event! Come and bring a friend! Permission slips can be found in the youth office or at [stgregsym.org](http://stgregsym.org)!

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

### **Life Teen– December 2, 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 5, 19**

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!

## **Leaving Religious Items in the Church**

Please do not leave items or religious novena pamphlets in the Church. Every item left out for parishioners needs to be approved by the Parish Office. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

## Youth & Young Adult Ministry (continued)

### **Camp Covecrest- July 21-28**

We are now collecting deposits for Camp Covecrest! Covecrest is an unforgettable week in the summer with a high ropes course, whitewater rafting, fantastic music, great speakers and more! Spots are limited so bring your deposit to the Youth Office today to save your spot! More information can be found on the website!

Any questions about High School Ministry, feel free to contact Richard!

### **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**.

**St. Luke's Service:** We're heading to St Luke's, a faithful city mission, on Saturday, December 8, We'll be working in the donation center, sorting goods for distribution. We'll follow up our time with lunch and fellowship!

**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.

**SEEK 2019:** January 3-7, Indianapolis. Open for college students, this amazing few days will transform your life as a Catholic leader! Join thousands of other college students looking for a spark on the soul with live music, amazing speakers, and an opportunity to grow in faith.

## **FORMED**

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St. Gregory the Great Parish code: **D7B6CQ**

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## Respect Life

**Please Join Us! The 29th Annual National Night of Prayer for Life will be held at St. Greg's on Saturday, December 8.** Prayers begin approximately 7:00 pm (following 5:30 Mass) and continue until 11:00 pm. We will have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church and the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet will be recited on the hour. Members of surrounding parishes will be joining us as well.

This event bridges the Feasts of the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8) and the Apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego (Dec 9). Everyone is invited to participate, as we ask Our Blessed Mother, under her title Our Lady of Guadalupe, to protect ALL Life, especially our unborn brothers and sisters; defend the Church and its faithful; restore religious freedom; and protect the family. May we make reparation for all the lives lost in this nation to abortion and pray that parents may be conscious of their calling as they share in God's creative power. We also pray that those who have acted against human life experience forgiveness.

You may come for any part or for all of the 4 hours or join us via the web at [www.stgregs.org](http://www.stgregs.org).

*"If my people... humble themselves and pray, and seek my presence and turn from their evil ways, I will hear them from heaven and pardon their sins and REVIVE THEIR LAND"—2 Chronicles 7:12*

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## Catechist Corner

**Making the Mass More Meaningful** to our youth can be as simple as asking kids to listen every week to the Gospel during Mass and to pose the following questions:

- What did I hear?
- What does it mean to me?
- What can I say to the Lord in response?
- How can I make my life a gift for others?<sup>1</sup>

**TIP:** For kids who cannot get to Mass because they don't have a ride— show them how to watch it online at our website [www.stgregs.org](http://www.stgregs.org)

<sup>1</sup> Dees, Jared. "Making the Mass More Meaningful." *Catechist*. Volume 52, Number 3. November/December 2018: 6 and 7.

## Parish Activity Calendar

### Sunday, December 2

- 8:00 am H.S.A. Book Fair (School Library)
- 5:30 pm Youth Ministry Life Teen (MC Gym/Café/Basement)

### Monday, December 3

- 8:00 am H.S.A. Book Fair (School Library)
- 10:30 am Senior Citizens Board Meeting (MC 1)
- 5:30 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting (MC 3)
- 6:00 pm Youth Ministry Music Practice (MC Basement)
- 7:00 pm Athletic Association Meeting (School Gym)

### Tuesday, December 4

- 8:00 am H.S.A. Book Fair (School Library)
- 1:30 pm Girl Scouts Brownie Meeting (GR 1)
- 3:30 pm Children's RCIA (MC 2)
- 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal (School Room 602)
- 6:30 pm Bible Study Eucharist Class (School Foreign Language Room)

6:30 pm Evening Prayer (Church Crying Room)

6:30 pm Boy Scouts Planning Meeting (MC Gym)

7:00 pm Parish Executive Council (MC Café)

8:30 pm Advent Reflection Reception

### Wednesday, December 5

- 8:00 am H.S.A. Book Fair (School Library)
- 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (MC Gym)
- 6:30 pm Grief & Loss Meeting (GR 1)
- 7:00 pm RCIC Meeting (Room 702)
- 7:00 pm Youth Ministry SWAT Team (MC Basement)

### Thursday, December 6

- 2:15 pm Girl Scout Jr. Troop Meeting (GR 1)
- 4:00 pm Building & Grounds Meeting (GR 1)
- 6:00 pm Youth Ministry Women's Bible Study (MC 1)
- 6:30 pm St. Vincent de Paul Meeting (GR1)
- 6:30 pm Youth Ministry Middle School EDGE(MC Gym)

### Friday, December 7

- 5:00 pm Youth Ministry Middle School Mayhem (MC Gym/Basement/foyer)
- 12:00 pm Youth Ministry Middle School Mayhem Mass (Church)
- 7:00 pm MOMS Advent Social (GR 1&2)
- 7:00 pm First Friday Club (School Gym/Caf/Kitchen)

### Saturday, December 8

- 10:00 am Knights of Columbus Children's Advent Celebration (MC Gym)
- 12:00 pm Rosary (Church)
- 8:00 pm National Night of Prayer for End of Abortion (Church)

### Sunday, December 9

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

## 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.

## St. Gregory the Great—School News

On November 8, 2018 Canisius College Hockey players Matt McLeod and Jim Mazza read to the kindergarten and first grade students at St. Greg's school.

Matt is studying business, and Jim is studying to be a doctor. They even sang a hockey song to the students, showing their talents go beyond the ice. All the students received a free ticket to an upcoming Canisius College hockey game. Desiree Weppner, school counselor, connected with the college to implement the Canisius Athletics Kids Reward Program, bringing athletes from different sports to read to students and give them opportunities to attend sports games for free.



### Bringing our School Community together through Prayer

We are excited to share that we started our Prayer Partner Program. This year we are blessed to have a Service Committee with parents, teachers, administration and the school board working collaboratively to support our service learning program.

One of the true marks of a Catholic School is fostering a life of service. We have had a Prayer Partner Program for many years at St. Greg's School which has through some years been referred to as Peer Partners. The purpose of this wonderful program is to grow our school culture centered around prayer and building community through connecting older students with younger students. Each grade level is assigned to another grade. For example, 8th grade will partner with 3rd grade for the year. Some students may have more than one prayer partner. There are assigned days for students to participate in an activity, work on a service project together or attend Mass together.

There are many benefits from this program for all students. There is something truly beautiful knowing that you have another student in the school praying for another student or students throughout the school year. Today the students in grades K-8 had their first meet-and-greet with their prayer partners. Students were able to create Thanksgiving placements with their partners to be shared with the elderly. Feel free to ask your child about their experience today.

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On Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 all 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at St. Greg's assembled for an internet safety presentation. Kathy Gust, from the Center for Missing and Exploited Children, was the presenter. Grades K-3 discussed internet safety in their classrooms, utilizing a power point and videos made available by this organization. This is part of the safety education initiative taught by school counselors Ms. Weppner and Mrs. Mucica. Visit [www.netSMARTz.org](http://www.netSMARTz.org) internet safety tips.



### JOIN US FOR DAILY PRAYER

The Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed daily after the 7:00 am Mass as well as before the 8:00 am Mass, which includes praying for those in the Military, especially those in harm's way. It is also prayed after the 8:00 am Mass and Rosary. Please join us in this powerful prayer which brings many blessings.

### Upcoming School Events:

Meat Raffle – January 11

Open House – January 27 from 10:30 am -12:30 pm

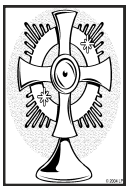
Catholic Schools Week – week of January 28

## Parenting Perspective

Advent begins December 2. Does your family have an Advent calendar or an Advent wreath? Children love these religious traditions as it helps them mark the time approaching Christmas. It helps them learn patience and how to wait with anticipation.

## Marriage Moment

What does it mean to be a king or queen or president or, indeed, anyone with power? Jesus reminds us, "My kingdom does not belong to this world." (John 18:36) Look at your spouse today and see beyond the power struggles of who is in charge or right most often. Recommit to making your life about your beloved.



### **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.

### **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**

## Out of Parish

**Camp Turner's WinterCamp '18.** Boys and girls, ages 7-15, are invited to sign up for Camp Turner's WinterCamp. This 3-day overnight camp runs Friday, December 28, at 10 :00 am through Sunday, December 30, at 6:00 pm. An optional round trip bus is available from Williamsville and Hamburg. The cabins are toasty, the food is delicious, and our experienced staff is excited to make this a great experience for everyone. An RN is on-site at all times. Visit [www.CampTurner.com](http://www.CampTurner.com) for activity descriptions and online registration. If you have any questions, e-mail [CampTurner@gmail.com](mailto:CampTurner@gmail.com) or call 716-354-4555.

**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 4:00to 6:00p.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.

**The Holidays can be a hard time...** If you or someone you love is struggling, turn to Catholic Charities. Our agency offers several different types of counseling support including: marriage counseling, individual psychotherapy, family and group therapy, substance abuse treatment, diocesan counseling for church ministers, children's clinics, and individual, children and family counseling. To learn more, visit [www.ccwny.org](http://www.ccwny.org) and click the "Counseling & Mental Health" tab on the right-hand side.

## Music Ministry

### Rehearsals

#### Children Choir (Grades 2-8)

4:30 pm, Tuesday, December 4, 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, Tuesday, December 4, in GR2

#### Choir for Christmas Midnight Mass

7:00-8:00 pm Tuesday, December 4, in GR 2  
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.

\*\*\*



## Mass Schedule

### **Saturday, December 1**

#### **Vigil Masses**

4:00 pm Henry Wojtowicz by Gail Wojtowicz  
5:30 pm Jim & Louise McParlan by Family  
G. Daniel O'Connell  
by Maureen O'Connell

### **Sunday, December 2 – First Sunday of Lent**

8:00 am Charles Oliver by Oliver Family  
9:30 am Stanley Smyczynski  
by Mr. & Mrs. James Smyczynski  
Joan Gugliuzza by Family  
11:00 am Jeffrey Mruk (birth)  
by Norbert Mruk Family  
Scott Wessner by Dave & Meg King  
12:30 pm Rose J. Ruzeski  
by Gary & Annette Kajtoch  
Rita Shuran by Patti Marchiori  
1:30 pm Baptisms  
4:30 pm Thomas J. Santa Lucia by Anne Yaeger

### **Monday, December 3 – St. Francis Xavier**

7:00 am Parishioners of St. Gregory's  
John Culkin (anniv) by Wife, Joanne  
& Family  
8:00 am Lilly Ann & Linda Bodack by Family  
12:00 pm Mary Niedzialowski (anniv) by Family  
Frank Scarcella  
by Michael & Joanne Andriaccio

### **Tuesday, December 4—St. John Damascene**

7:00 am Eugene Ryan (living) by Ryan Family  
8:00 am Robert L. Nuccitelli  
by Donald & Cathy Jarmusz  
Kathleen Quirk by Kate Hahn  
12:00 pm Rose Hoelscher  
by Ann Marie & Tim Spellman  
Msgr. Richard Nugent  
by Sam & Dawn Curazzato

### **Wednesday, December 5**

7:00 am Russell Villardo by Family  
8:00 am Norm Paolini  
by Suzanne Flynn DeGraffenreid  
Violet Cassiol by Phyllis Petre & Family  
12:00 pm John & Vickie DiSalvo  
by Mr. & Mrs. Frank Deni & Family  
John Antonucci by Giovanna Vaccaro

### **Thursday, December 6 – St. Nicholas**

7:00 am Jack Rafter by Barbara & Bill Collins  
8:00 am Joseph & Mary Wittman  
(School Mass) by Mary Ann & Walt Weber  
Ronald Malachowski  
by Victoria Czak & Family  
12:00 pm Anthony Vetrano by Wife & Family  
John Antonucci by Marie Vetrano

### **Friday, December 7 – St. Ambrose**

7:00 am Donald Cronin by Wife, Donna  
Andrew Roberts by Neil, Dad & Becky  
8:00 am Mary Stafford by Strasser Family  
12:00 pm Fred Postolese by Wife, Sandra  
Rose Hoelscher by Sandra Monin

#### **Vigil Mass**

7:00 pm Geri De Lac by Family

### **Saturday, December 8 – Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary**

8:00 am Dr. Marcos B. Gallego by Family  
For all Intentions of the Blessed Mother  
by Ladies of the Lord  
10:00 am Vilma Arana by Riordan Family

#### **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. Iannaelli  
by John & Colleen Nettina  
9:30 am Dr. Bernie Kolber, Sr. & Alice Kolber  
by Michelle Bertola  
Joseph Yageric by Prayer Chain Ministry  
Sandra & Michael Wojtowicz  
by Mother, Mary Ann & Family  
Rose Hoelscher by Richard Grabenstatter,  
Jay Roeder & Todd Sherrer Families  
12:30 pm Vincent Denticio by Victor Liberatore  
& Bueme Families  
Donald Wania by Anthony & Judy Picone  
1:30 pm Baptisms  
4:30 pm Norine & Dick Neumeister by Family

\*\*\*

#### **DECEASED**

Victoria A. Kihl  
James J. Laux  
Lucy R. Giulano

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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.

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

**PASTOR**

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

**PAROCHIAL VICARS**

Fr. Thomas Mahoney (310); tmahoney@stgregs.org

Msr. Thomas Maloney (305);

FatherThomas@stgregs.org

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

**PERMANENT DEACONS**

Deacon Michael G. Bochiechio

Deacon Paul Walter; PWalter@stgregs.org

**PASTORAL ASSOCIATE**

Sr. Shawn Czyzycki (335); sczyzycki@stgregs.org

**BUSINESS MANAGER**

Tina Evers (306); tevers@stgregs.org

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY**

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**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS**

Marisa Piazza (303); MPiazza@stgregs.org

**YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY**

Adam Jarosz - College & Young Adult (316);

ajarosz@stgregs.org

Nicole Janecek - Middle School (341);

njanecek@stgregs.org

Richard Patti - High School (338); rpatti@stgregs.org

**PARISH NURSE**

Lee Zack - (339); lzack@stgregs.org

**TRUSTEES**

Christie Thein, Thomas Vacanti

**SCHOOL OFFICE**

250 St. Gregory Court

688-5323 Fax: 688-6629

**PRINCIPAL**

Julie Gajewski (350); jgajewski@stgregs.org

**SCHOOL BOARD - schoolboard@stgregs.org**

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

**FAMILY FAITH FORMATION OFFICE**

250 St. Gregory Court

688-5760 Fax: 639-8251

**DIRECTOR**

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](http://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](http://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*
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- *Spirit of welcome and reconciliation*
- *Compassion and concern for those in need*
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