

# SAINT GREGORY THE GREAT

PARISH COMMUNITY

LIVING THE GOSPEL . . .

~ IN FAITH

~ IN WORSHIP

~ IN SERVICE



*First Sunday of Lent*

*February 17 & 18, 2018*

## From the Desk of the Pastor

My dear parish family, we have begun! We have begun our forty-day journey through Lent. My hope and prayer is that you are still focused on your Lenten commitment and if for some reason you have faltered, please pick yourself up and try to begin again.

This Sunday we hear one of what I and many other Scripture scholars consider to be the themes of St. Mark in his Gospel. We hear that "the Spirit **immediately** drove him out into the wilderness." The simple word "immediately" is used over forty times in Mark's Gospel. This may not seem like a point worth mentioning, but it is worthy of consideration since the other Gospel writers have not used the term to the same great extent. Most Scripture scholars acknowledge one of the main themes of Mark's Gospel to be the "Messianic Secret." The Messianic Secret means that Jesus wants people to figure out on their own, in their heart and soul, who exactly He is. We often hear Jesus say when healing someone to go and not tell anyone about this.

Another theme in Mark I believe is the theme of "immediately." What does this theme mean? I believe it is a call to put the Gospel of Jesus Christ as a priority. It is a summons to have the Kingdom of God as an urgent matter. In hearing that Jesus often acts with immediacy we also see others called to the same immediacy as His disciple. We are called this Lent to the same immediacy in our living of the Gospel message.

This year we had Ash Wednesday fall on the same day as Valentine's Day. This is the first time it has happened since 1945. Bishop Malone called us as Catholics to prioritize Ash Wednesday and to still celebrate Valentine's Day appropriately on another day. He even suggested creating a double celebration the day before, combining Mardi Gras and Valentine's Day. This received quite a bit of media attention as well as conversation among people. As with most things, some were thrilled that our Bishop spoke so clearly to lead us, while others laughed off the matter and said, "I'll do what I want on February 14." I believe this Ash Wednesday was a wonderful moment to check the very foundation of our own life. If I am a person of the Church and Faith, then Ash Wednesday took priority and with immediacy entered into these forty days of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. We found another way to celebrate and/or another day to celebrate Valentine's Day. People more rooted in secular culture and celebration probably prioritized Valentine's Day dinner in a nice restaurant or setting and delayed entering into prayer, fasting and almsgiving. How did you respond to our Ash Wednesday call? (continued on page 2)

## FISH FRY FRIDAYS

### Dine-in or Drive-up!

**Fried Fish or Breaded Shrimp dinner:** macaroni salad, cole slaw, roll and butter.

**Baked Fish dinner:** rice, green beans, roll and butter. Drinks and homemade desserts are also included!

Pizza will be available for \$1.00 per slice.

Join us every Friday during Lent (except Good Friday) from 4:00-7:00 pm in our School Gym.

Advance tickets can be purchased for \$10.00 per person in all Parish Offices, Catholic Store and Café. Tickets at the door are \$11.00.

## The Light is On - Confessions

Every Wednesday during Lent from 5:00 - 7:00pm in the Church we will be offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In addition, the Parish Lenten Penance Service will be held on Tuesday, March 1, at 7:00pm.

## Presidents' Day

**On Monday, February 19, all Parish Offices, including Family Faith, School and Youth Ministry will be closed. There will only be one Mass that day, at 8:00am.**

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Mon. Feb. 19:** Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Matthew 25:31-46

**Tues. Feb. 20:** Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15

**Wed. Feb. 21:** Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32

**Thurs. Feb. 22:** 1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19

**Fri. Feb. 23:** Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26

**Sat. Feb. 24:** Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48

**Sun. Feb. 25:** Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 (26B); Romans 8:31b-34; Mark 9:2-10

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## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

### A change of heart

<b>Reading I</b>	Genesis 9:8-15 (covenant with Noah)
<b>Reading II</b>	1 Peter 3:18-22 (the purpose of Christ's suffering)
<b>Gospel</b>	Mark 1:12-15 (Jesus' temptation; the call to conversion)
<b>Passage</b>	For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. (1 Peter 3:18)

**Adult:** *When or how could you step away from your daily responsibilities to renew yourself, so that you can do a better job of following in the footsteps of Jesus?*

**Child:** *What good habit could you work on during Lent so you could grow closer to God?*

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## VOCATION VIEW

Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert for forty days of prayer and fasting. Likewise, in places of solitude we too can hear the voice of God. Take some time to listen this Lent. 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](http://www.buffalovocations.org)!

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## Heart-To-Heart Food Drive Thank You!

On behalf of the Family Faith Formation Office and St. Vincent De Paul Society, thank you for your generosity. Because of your giving hearts, we were able to fill our St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry, as well as deliver food to St. Luke's Mission and the Fr. James C. Erving, OMI, Food Pantry at Holy Angels Parish.



## From the Desk of the Pastor

(cont'd from page 1) My assessment may be too simplistic, but I believe that the simple moments can define who we are and what we believe. How do you define yourself? Are you a person about the immediacy of the Gospel, or a person who delays living the Gospel message? Is there a facet of your life that you have not allowed the urgency of the Gospel to address? It is very easy for the relativism of the time to eclipse the immediacy of the Gospel. This eclipse can happen without our full awareness.

As we begin to live this Lenten experience, how immediately do you desire to bring the light of the Gospel alive within your own heart and soul? We are reminded that God desires to be the Lord of our entire mind, heart and soul. There is a fullness and immediacy to that desire of our God for us. As we begin to live the disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, is there one of the three we struggle more with accomplishing? If so, focus on that one in particular this Lent.

Of the three disciplines, fasting is probably the most difficult. We understand the need to pray and to be charitable, but we do not really understand the need to fast. As Americans, we do not like to fast. We live in a land of plenty and really in a culture of excess. Fasting takes many forms. We can fast from food and we certainly abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Fridays during Lent and Good Friday. In addition, we not only abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, but we also fast. Fasting on these days does not mean going out for a fish fry and a couple beers; it means going without food. Unfortunately we do not really know what it means to go without food. Fasting on these two days means that we eat very little. Two times we can take a small amount of food that in total does not equal one full meal, and also one time we take a very simple meal. Genuine fasting means that we do not eat at all and simply rely on drinking water. Fasting cleanses us in the long run and can purify our bodies. Fasting is also a difficult challenge as it calls us to go without. Did you really fast on Ash Wednesday and go without? Did you experience hunger? Will you do that on Good Friday? Will you fast not only from food, but also from other things during Lent (eg: television, video games, the internet, social media sites or other things)? These are great questions to ponder and to bring to life as we once again live prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

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

## 2017 TAX STATEMENTS

Statements of Contributions for tax purposes were mailed to all parishioners whose donations for the year totaled at least \$100.

## **Youth & Young Adult Ministry**

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

Check out our brand-new Youth Ministry & Young Adult Ministry website at [www.stgregsym.org](http://www.stgregsym.org).

### **Middle School**

Edge Nights: Feb. 22 ; 6:30 - 8:30pm

### **High School**

Life Teen: Feb. 18; 5:30- 7:30pm

### **Ultimate Night: February 23, 7:00 - 9:00pm:**

You asked and we answered! The first High-School Ultimate Night in history, with open gym time, snacks, movies and games, will be held on February 23 at 7:00pm in the Ministry Center. If you are a High-Schooler looking for a night of fun, this is for you! All are welcome!

### **College**

**Oasis Magazine:** Sign up for the online magazine for college students both home and away for original content to keep you fresh throughout the semester. If you have any questions about College Ministry, contact Adam!

### **Youth Adult Ministry (18 - 30's-ish)**

**New website and social media** – Check out the new website, complete with a fantastic section for young adults. Includes upcoming events, great recommendations for media and ways to serve. Plus, follow us on our new Instagram account just for this age group for fresh content!

**Daily Mass** – Take a break during your day and join us at noon for daily Mass on Wednesdays. If you have time after, stop over to the Café for a drink or a bite to eat.

**Exodus90** – We're going through Lent and continuing to Pentecost with a group of brave men to build discipline through asceticism and prayer with a rigorous 90 day cleanse of body and soul. Stay tuned for a second round this summer.

## **"SPIRITUAL SPINS & GRINS" FROM FR. FRANCIS**

### ***A Sign of Contradiction***

*A true Christian is a sign of contradiction + a living symbol of the Cross.*

*He or she is a person who believes the unbelievable, bears the unbearable, forgives the unforgivable, loves the unlovable, is perfectly happy not to be perfect, is willing to give up one's will, becomes weak to the strong, sees some good in every bad, and finds love by giving it away.*

*A Christian transcends the natural with the immeasurable power of love and becomes a supernatural person. [Joseph Roy]*

## **St. Gregory the Great Faith Community**

# **Journey Home With Us This Lent!**

### **Fish Fry Fridays –**

#### **Join us for Food & Fellowship**

Every Friday night during Lent (except Good Friday)  
4:00 - 7:00 pm in the School Cafeteria

### **Come and Pray the**

#### **Stations of the Cross**

Every Friday, February 23; March 2, 9, 16,  
23 & 30 at 7:00 pm in the Church

Also, February 16; March 2 & 23 with the School children at 1:20 pm in the Church

### **Holy Hour for Vocations**

Every Friday at 7:30 pm in the Church  
after the Stations of the Cross

### **Parish Lenten Retreat**

Fr. Duke Zajac will lead us in our Lenten Retreat that will be a three-day Healing Mission.  
March 12-14: 12:00 pm & 7:00 pm in the Church

### **Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with us**

Parish Penance Service:  
Thursday, March 1, at 7:00 pm in the Church

### **Join us for Liturgy of the Hours**

Morning Prayer (Lauds) on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday: 9:00 am in the Church  
Evening Prayer (Vespers) every Tuesday evening:  
February 20 - March 27: 6:30 pm in the Church

### **Friday Lenten Series**

Fridays, February 16, 23; March 2, 9, 16, 23:  
12:30 – 1:30 pm in the Gathering Room

### **Family Faith Formation**

#### **Children's Lenten Pageant**

Saturday, March 17: 9:15 am in the School Gym

### **The Light is On - Confessions**

Every Wednesday during Lent, 5:00 - 7:00pm  
in the Church

### **Divine Mercy Chaplet Novena**

April 3 - 6 after 12:00 noon Mass &  
April 17 after 8:00am Mass  
*A Man for All Seasons*, inspiring talks  
by Bishop Fulton Sheen



# LENT 2018

## Friday Lenten Series

February 23; March 2, 9, 16, 23; 12:00 - 2:00pm

### February 23 - Seven Secrets of Confession

Get ready to discover the “hidden” truths of Confession—truths that have always been embraced by theologians and Saints—now finally understandable to all. Author Vinny Flynn unveils the seven key “secrets” or hidden truths about the great spiritual beauty, power and depth of Confession. If you have not yet experienced Confession as a wonderful personal encounter with Christ; if you do not yet look forward to going to Confession with the same eagerness and expectation with which you receive Holy Communion, then this presentation is for you. It will be a whole new way of going to Confession, inviting you to begin an exciting, personal journey to healing and holiness. (60 minutes plus bonus secret)

## Attending the Friday Lenten Series?

Pre-order lunch from the St. Greg’s Café.

Call ahead of time to 276-6915.

## Parish Lenten Retreat

Please join us for our Parish Lenten Retreat on Monday, March 12, Tuesday, March 13, and Wednesday, March 14.

Our retreat will be led by Father Richard “Duke” Zajac. The retreat will be offered twice each day; once at 12:00 noon and again at 7:00pm. The Celebration of the Eucharist will be included in all sessions. Fr. Duke has been involved in healing ministry for 33 years, chiefly as Staff Chaplain at Sisters Hospital.

## CATHOLIC STORE LENTEN OFFERINGS

Stop in to pick up some spiritual reading for Lent! We have a variety of suggested books, from daily prayers to inspirational books, to help make Lent a prayerful, holy time.

## CAFÉ LENTEN MENU

On Ash Wednesday we will have a special meatless pizza menu! Also, beginning Ash Wednesday and continuing on Wednesdays and Fridays through Lent, the Café will be serving pierogis (cheese, potato, and sauerkraut), meatless soups, grilled cheese and meatless paninis. We invite you to stop by during Lent and enjoy our pierogis and other Lenten specials with your family, friends and fellow parishioners.

The St. Greg’s Café is still your number one spot for breakfast and lunch, open daily (except Mondays)! Don’t forget to join us on Wednesday evenings for Pizza Night!

## FISH FRY FRIDAYS

All are welcome to our Dine-in or Drive-up Fish Fry Fridays during Lent! Fried Fish or Breaded Shrimp dinner includes macaroni salad, cole slaw, roll and butter. Baked Fish dinner includes rice, green beans, roll and butter. Drinks and homemade desserts are also included! Pizza will be available for \$1.00 per slice. Join us February 23; March 2, 9, 16 & 23 from 4:00-7:00 pm in our School Gym. Advance tickets can be purchased for \$10.00 per person in all Parish Offices, Catholic Store and Café. Tickets at the door are \$11.00. For more information please call the Parish Office at 688-5678.

Please help support the St. Greg’s band program by purchasing a candy bar (or two!) at any of the Lenten Fish Fries! Miss Villa, parents, and students will be there from 4:00-7:00pm each Friday during Lent - our delicious Niagara Chocolate candy bars are just \$1 apiece and all proceeds go towards the band participating in major festivals. Thank you in advance for your support!

## The Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet

April 3 - 6 after 12:00 noon Mass and April 7 after the 8:00am Mass. *A Man for All Seasons* ~ Inspiring talks by Bishop Fulton Sheen

## Northern Vicariate Lecture Series

Different ways we encounter Mary –

### 100th Anniversary of the Apparitions at Fatima

The first session of the Lenten Lecture Series will be held on Monday, February 19, at 7:30pm in Christ the King Church, 30 Lamarck Dr., Amherst, NY 14226. Rev. Dan Young will speak on our experience of Mary and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Apparitions at Fatima. No cost! No reservations required! Come and bring a friend! Refreshments served! Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @necvicariate

## SEVEN CHURCHES BUS TRIP

Holy Thursday, March 29, we will have a bus trip pilgrimage to visit seven churches. The bus will leave promptly at 8:30 pm following the 7:00 pm Mass. Cost is \$5.00 per person and \$12.00 per family. Please complete this slip and return with enclosed check/cash to Jo Pierino by way of mail or collection by **Friday, March 23**.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

## Can you help us for a "brief" moment ...Diaper Drive Fundraiser!

Our Jamaica Mission Trip team needs your help! We are collecting money to help Mustard Seed Communities purchase diapers for their residents. The majority of their residents use diapers, so they are essential at all of the communities, from infants to adult size. Diapers are very costly and are an item they are grateful to receive in kind. Mustard Seed currently has a partnership with ISOH/Impact that allows them to ship and receive a container of 60,000 diapers for a donation of \$1,650. This partnership makes diapers less than 2.5 cents per piece, a price that makes this the most effective way to send diapers to their communities.

Every little bit counts! Please pick up an envelope in the vestibule of the Church or at the Parish Office and drop the envelope in the collection or at the Parish Office. Cash or checks will be accepted and can be made payable to **St. Gregory the Great**, Attn: Jamaica Mission Diaper Drive. We will be running the fundraiser through Lent and our goal is to send enough money to ship two containers worth of diapers. Questions? Email Elizabeth Astridge at [stgregsmissiontrip@gmail.com](mailto:stgregsmissiontrip@gmail.com). Thank you!!!!

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## Young Adult Women's Bible Study Attention Women Ages 18-30s!

Pam Distefano will be leading our first YA Women's Bible Study. Come and join other young adult women every Wednesday evening, February 21 - March 21, to go through the "Healing the father wound" series. We will gather at 7:00pm in Sr. Maureen's room in the Ministry Center. Great way to make friends and go deeper in faith!

## Family Faith Formation

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

### FFF Calendar of Upcoming Events :

**Fish Fry Fridays: Pre-Sale Tickets are \$10 per person** (\$11 at the door) and are available for sale in the Family Faith Formation Office, Monday - Friday from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm and when classes are in session. Tickets are good for any of the following Friday dates: February 23, March 2, 9, 16 & 23. Dine-in or Take-out! FFF is sponsoring the March 9 Fish Fry – so make sure to come and support us!!

**Bakers and Adult Helpers Needed:** FFF is sponsoring the Fish Fry on March 9 and we will be needing adult volunteers and bakers to bring (precut/individually wrapped) desserts. If you can help, email [pgilbert@stgregs.org](mailto:pgilbert@stgregs.org) or call the office at 688-5760 for more info. Thank you!!

### Winter Break February 17 - 25

NO FFF Classes. FFF Office Closed.

### Sunday, March 4

10:30 am Generations of Faith (GOF) Session A  
12:30 pm Generations of Faith (GOF) Session B  
(School Gym, Cafeteria & Classrooms)

### Thursday, March 8

6:15 pm Generations of Faith (GOF) Session



**KNIGHTS  
OF COLUMBUS**

### Information Night

Tuesday, February 20, 7:00-8:00pm in the St. Greg's Café.  
Learn about the largest Catholic, Fraternal, Family organization in the world and how you can become a member.



## Adult Confirmation Sessions

Any adult/young adult or college student who has not received the Sacrament of Confirmation is invited to join us for our upcoming Adult Confirmation Sessions being held on Saturday mornings beginning February 24. Candidates will be prepared in time to participate in one of our Parish celebrations of the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, March 31, or by Bishop Malone on May 16 or 17.

### PREPARATION COMMITMENT TEACHING SESSIONS

**Session I** – Saturday, February 24, 10:00 – 11:30 am in Gathering Room 1; *What is Confirmation? The Creed and Requirements*

**Session II** – Saturday, March 3, 10:00 – 11:30 am in the Ministry Center Upper Room; *Eucharist, Liturgy and Reconciliation*

**Session III** – Saturday, March 10, 10:00 – 11:30 am in Gathering Room 1; *Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit*

**Session IV** – Saturday, March 17, 10:00 – 11:30 am in Gathering Room 1; *Living as a Catholic, Morality and Personal Prayer*

These Adult Confirmation Sessions are for those needing the Sacrament of Confirmation only. To register or for more information please contact Deacon Peter Donnelly ([pdonnelly@stgregs.org](mailto:pdonnelly@stgregs.org)). If you need more than the Sacrament of Confirmation please contact Deacon Peter as well.



## Respect Life

### From Pope Francis' Angelus Message

**(2/4/18):** Today in Italy, we celebrate Pro-Life Day which has as its theme, "The Gospel of life, joy for the world." I echo the message of the Bishops and express my appreciation and encouragement to the different ecclesiastical groups which promote and support life in many ways, *in particular the pro-life movement*; I greet its representatives present here — not very many. And this worries me. There are not many who fight for life; in a world where more and more weapons are built each day, where laws contrary to life are made daily; where a throw-away culture continues every day; the discarding of what is not useful, what is bothersome. Please let us pray that our people may be more conscious of the defense of life in this moment of destruction and rejection of humanity.

And now an announcement. Faced with the tragic prolonging of conflicts in various parts of the world, **I invite all the faithful to join me in a Special Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace on 23 February, the Friday of the First week of Lent.** We will offer it in particular for the populations of the Democratic Republic of Congo and of South Sudan.

Our heavenly Father always listens to his children who cry out to him in pain and anguish; "He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds" (Ps 147[146]:3). I launch a heartfelt appeal that we too may listen to this cry and each, according to his or her own conscience before God, can ask: "What can I do for peace?" We can certainly pray, but not only: each one can concretely say "no" to violence on his or her own behalf. Because the victories obtained through violence are false victories, whereas working for peace is good for everyone. (w2.vatican.va)

## **Catechist's Corner**

*The role of a catechist is to teach our faith by word and example.*

"When we use our gifts together, we make a greater difference." *Unknown*



### **From a Junior high student:**

I love being in Mrs. Perry's class because she is so kind. She is a great teacher and helps us focus on God more. Whenever I am feeling down, she has taught me to look up and respect God.



If you're interested in learning more about becoming a catechist or a classroom aide in the Family Faith Formation program, please call Joan Rischmiller at **688-5760**.

## St. Greg's School

### Kindergarten Registration

We accept registrations from **9:00am-1:00pm** in the School. **At the time of registration, parents MUST present the following information:**

Birth certificate copy (Child must be 5 years old by 12/1/2018)      Baptismal Certificate copy & **Immunization Record**

NEW FAMILIES: \$150 non-refundable deposit at time of registration  
...plus \$100.00 non-refundable tuition deposit will be due at time of screening

## Cougars Corner

"I want to know Christ, yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participate in His sufferings, become like Him in death, and so, somehow, attaining the resurrection of His death." Philippians 3:10-11

The Lenten season started on Ash Wednesday this past week. As Christians, Lent is an important time in our Faith. It's a time of remembrance of God's death and resurrection. Each year, we try to set different goals like: fasting, giving up important things and striving to be better people, though most of the time we do not follow through on these things. Life starts getting in the way and we become distracted with other tasks and we do not follow through with our sacrifices. This Lenten season, we should all strive to make our goals and follow through on our Lenten promise, even if it's something as simple as giving up one of your favorite foods or attending Mass regularly. The point of Lent is to remember how Jesus suffered, sacrificed and died for us. We should use this as a reflection and examination of our lives. If throughout Lent we follow all of these things, we can enter Easter filled with God's love and start to appreciate God more.

*By: Valentina Woods*

## **ADULT MISSION TRIP – JULY 2018**

*The smallest 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 14-21, 2018. If you are interested, please contact Elizabeth Astridge at [stgregsmissiontrip@gmail.com](mailto:stgregsmissiontrip@gmail.com).

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## **LADIES OF THE LORD...**

Monthly meeting will be on Monday, February 26, at 1:00pm in the Cafe. This month's aid is directed to the traditional Easter basket recipients. Our next day of service at the Thrift Store is Monday, March 5. Please call Marge at 688-5954 if interested. New members are always welcome at our meetings.



## K of C District Free Throw Championship!



St. Gregory's Knights of Columbus Council hosted the District Free Throw Championship February 3. St. Gregory Council's Free Throw champions squared off against Cardinal O'Hara Council's champions. It was the best of 25 free throws.

The District 79 Champions from this competition are:

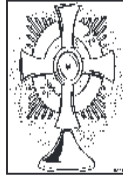
### Girls

Jasmin Nagra – 9 year old – St. Gregory Council  
 Leah Solomon – 10 year old – St. Gregory Council  
 Abigail Dahl – 11 year old – Cardinal O'Hara Council  
 Meaghan Trapper – 12 year old – Cardinal O'Hara Council

### Boys

Charles Trepacz – 9 year old – Cardinal O'Hara Council  
 Kirill Sorkin – 10 year old – St. Gregory Council  
 Aidan Ogilvie – 11 year old – Cardinal O'Hara Council  
 Benjamin Cugno – 12 year old – St. Gregory Council  
 Jacob Kanowski – 13 year old – St. Gregory Council  
 Antonio Gallo – 14 year old – Cardinal O'Hara Council

Each winner will compete in the Regional competition on Feb. 24 at Our Lady of Hope, with an eye toward moving on to the State level. Congratulations to all participants!



## **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)

**“ADORERS NEEDED!!!** You are invited to join us and sign up for any hour(s) convenient for you. We especially need Adorers for **Mondays, 2:00-3:00am; Tuesdays, 9:00-10:00am; Wednesdays, 3:00-4:00am, 6:00-7:00pm; Thursdays, 2:00-3:00am, 3:00-4:00am, 7:00-8:00am & 11:00am - 12:00noon; Fridays, midnight to 1:00am; Saturdays, 4:00-5:00pm, 5:00-6:00pm, 6:00-7:00pm & 7:00-8:00pm; Sundays, 10:00-11:00am, 12:00noon-1:00pm, 4:00-5:00pm, 5:00-6:00pm & 6:00-7:00pm.** If you are willing to be a substitute Adorer, please contact Kathy at 759-7149 or Barbara at 634-7478. Thank you for your commitment to spend one hour each week with Jesus in Adoration.

## **Ladies, Mark Your Calendars....**

The 3rd Annual Catholic Women's Conference is coming to Cardinal O'Hara High School in Tonawanda, NY, on February 24. For more information please call (716) 222-0622 or to register online visit: [www.catholicwomenofbuffalo.org](http://www.catholicwomenofbuffalo.org). Vendors may visit the website to apply.

## **St. Gregory's Home School Association 1500 Club Raffle Ticket Request – April 14, 2018 (Drop in collection basket or to the Parish Office)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tickets requested (\$50 each, admits 2 over age 21): \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

School family's name, if different than above: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have additional questions, please contact the event co-chairs: JoAnne Mroziak (631-3393); Nora Weil (632-2271); Donna Buckmaster (868-6374) or email [1500club@stgregs.org](mailto:1500club@stgregs.org).

Your official ticket will be sent to the address listed on the request form by return mail. Thank you for supporting us to make this major fundraiser a great success. Don't miss out on your chance to win one of the great prizes. May God continue to bless you for your generosity!

## Sacramental Information

The Sacrament of First Penance will be held on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 6:30 pm in the Church.

Confirmation Interviews will be held on March 3 from 8:30 am - 2:00 pm in the School Cafeteria and on March 5 from 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm in the School Gym.

### Confirmation Rehearsal:

This year, there will be only ONE Confirmation Rehearsal, on Tuesday, April 10, at 6:30 pm in the Church. Confirmation Rehearsal should be attended by the candidate and their sponsor. A parent can stand in for out-of-town sponsors so that they can provide direction for the sponsor prior to Confirmation night.

2018 Confirmation Dates have been scheduled as follows: Tuesday, April 17, and Thursday, April 19, at 7:00pm in the Church. Letters and emails were sent to candidates with their assigned date of Confirmation. Any questions, please contact Arlene Meyerhofer at [ameyerhofer@stgregs.org](mailto:ameyerhofer@stgregs.org) or call 688-5760.

## Senior Citizens

February 19, Seneca Niagara Casino, \$16 per person, \$25/Slot Dollars and 5 Food. Payment due with reservation. Bus departs Ministry Center at 8:30 am, returns 3:30 pm. Valid Government Photo ID required.

April 22-27, 2018 (Rescheduled) Savannah, GA & Charleston, SC motorcoach tour including tours of both cities. For travel reservations/information, call Nancy at 631-5313.

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## Update Your Parishioner Records

If you have recently married please contact the Parish Office to update your records. This will be very important if you ever need to request a letter to become a Godparent in the Church.

In addition, if you have moved or changed parishes please update your records. Again, this is important in the process of becoming a Godparent.



## Music Ministry

### Rehearsals

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

4:30 - 5:30 pm, Tues., Feb. 20, in GR 2

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

#### Adult Choir for 11:00 am Mass

7:30 pm, Thursday, February 22, in GR 2

#### Easter Triduum Choir

7:00 - 9:00 pm, Tuesdays, February 20 & 27 and March 6, 20 & 27, in GR 2

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



## Parish Activity Calendar

### Sunday, February 18

11:30 am RCIA Sunday Dismissal Discussion (GR 1)  
5:30 pm Youth Ministry Life Teen (MC Gym)

### Monday, February 19

### Tuesday, February 20

6:00 pm Knights of Columbus Open House (MC Café)  
6:30 pm Evening Prayer (Crying Room)

### Wednesday, February 21

7:30 am Finance Council Meeting (GR 1)  
10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (MC Gym)  
5:00 pm The Light Is On Confessions (Church)  
7:00 pm Men of God Meeting (GR 2)  
7:00 pm RCIA Presentation/Discussion (Room 702)

### Thursday, February 22

6:30 pm Youth Ministry Edge (MC Gym)

### Friday February 23

9:00 am Marian Queen of Heaven Study (GR 1&2)  
12:30 pm Friday Lenten Series (GR 1&2)  
4:00 pm Fish Fry (School Gym)  
7:00 pm Youth Ministry Event (MC Gym/Basement/Café)  
7:00 pm Stations of the Cross & Holy Hour (Church)  
8:00 pm Knights of Columbus WNY Chapter Mtg.  
(GR 1&2)

### Saturday, February 24

10:00 am Adult Confirmation Session (GR 1)

### Sunday, February 25

11:30 am RCIA Sunday Dismissal Discussion (GR 1)  
5:30 pm Youth Ministry Life Teen (MC Gym)

## 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, February 21, from 7:00-9:00 pm in Gathering Room 2.** Please bring a friend, a brother, a dad, an uncle or cousin for this special night. For more information, contact Ray Geska at 541-8345 or [raygeska@yahoo.com](mailto:raygeska@yahoo.com), or Jeff Criden at 207-4878 or [jeffrcrd@aol.com](mailto:jeffrcrd@aol.com).

\*\*\*

## Post-Dyngus Day Dinner Dance

Join St. Greg's for our Post Dyngus Day Dinner Dance! This event includes dinner from area-renowned Nowak Catering, a fully stocked bar, and homemade desserts. Live music will be performed by local favorite The Buffalo Touch Polka Band. There will be a free polka dancing lessons, given by a certified instructor, for all those in attendance. Throughout the evening, try your luck at our basket raffle and our 50/50 raffle. This event is for those 21 and over, tickets are pre-sale only.

If interested, call: 688-3578 or email:

[stgregspostdyngusday@gmail.com](mailto:stgregspostdyngusday@gmail.com)



## Mass Schedule

### Saturday, February 17

#### Vigil Masses

- 4:00 pm Otello & Marianna Manna  
by Laura Pegnia & Family  
Lucille Cullen by Joanne Dane
- 5:30 pm William J. Cleary, Jr. by Goergen Family

### Sunday, February 18 – First Sunday of Lent

- 8:00 am Phillip Tricoli (anniv)  
by Mrs. Theresa Tricoli & Children
- 9:30 am Agnes Trippe  
by Militello & Mazza Families  
Barbarina Bianchi by Ken & Sharon Koller
- 11:00 am Daniel Key  
by Gregory & Mary Langl & Family  
Joseph I. Marino by Steve & Carol Fazekas
- 12:30 pm Luke Doktor by Matt & Kelly Doktor  
William J. Kilinskas by Bill Kilinskas
- 4:30 pm Calogero, Antonio & Maria Scorciotta  
by Carmen & Josephine Collana

### Monday, February 19

- 8:00 am Louisa Vargas  
by Daughter, Edith Varbanov  
Michael Smith by Family

### Tuesday, February 20

- 7:00 am Parishioners of St. Gregory's
- 8:00 am John Leutze, Sr. by Sam & Shirley Carocci  
Gilbert Monacelli by Wife & Daughters
- 12:00 pm Peter Collard by Frank & Susan Stahl  
Harriet D. Migliore  
by Paul & Ellie Catalano

### Wednesday, February 21

- 7:00 am Margaret Daniels  
by Daughter, Anne Bielinski  
Joshua Roetzer by Ken & Debbie Kistner
- 8:00 am Holy Souls in Purgatory by Barbara Pelosi
- 12:00 pm Louis Croce by Nick & Rose Marie George  
Rita Biondo by Chris Predko

### Thursday, February 22

- 7:00 am John Tronolone (birth) by Family  
Joshua Roetzer by John & Gloria Roetzer
- 8:00 am Tom Comer  
by Dawne Vullo & Allegra Perna
- 12:00 pm Elizabeth Mastrantonio by Family  
William Mayers  
by Vern & Sarah Anderson

### Friday, February 23

- 7:00 am John & Joyce Ambrosoli by Estate
- 8:00 am William D. McCarthy by Christ Family  
Michael E. Minahan by Piazza Family
- 12:00 pm Alois Wienckowski (anniv) by Family  
Mark Czarnecki by Lee & Tim Brenner

### Saturday, February 24

- 8:00 am Nico Christopher Van Remmen  
by Grandparents Amibaldi  
Pitro & Vincenza Puzzella by Family

#### Vigil Masses

- 4:00 pm Nicolo Pierro by Family  
Jennifer Wilson  
by Eugene & Pia O'Connor
- 5:30 pm Sharon Sperduto by Joyce Santora

### Sunday, February 25 – Second Sunday of Lent

- 8:00 am David Starks by Elizabeth Starks & Family
- 9:30 am Agnes Trippe by Kelly & Mazza Families  
Mary Jane Luhr by Hendler Girls
- 11:00 am Daniel Kay by Elaine Kay  
Ronald Traina by Christi & Brian Carroll
- 12:30 pm Terry Dean by Herman Rodenberg  
Bill Liscavage by Wife, Bianca
- 1:30 pm Baptisms
- 4:30 pm Gerri De Lac by Family

## DECEASED

Msgr. Samuel J. Faiola  
Kathleen Hillebrand  
Msgr. Paul Juenker  
Dora O. Runfola  
Alfred Sagliani

\*\*\*

## WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY!

In January, we Baptized 7 new Christians. Welcome to our parish family and congratulations to the parents of: **William James Braniecki, Reece Goodwin Clark, Lucy Rose Kotwicki, Molly Elizabeth Roberts, Brooke Taylor Sullivan, Christopher Anthony Vacanti** and **Michael Anthony Vacanti**. Special thanks to parish seamstresses for the white Remembrance Stoles.

\*\*\*

## PRAYER CHAIN

Did you know that St. Gregory's has a Prayer Chain of approximately 80 members who will pray for your intentions? You may call the parish office at 688-5678 to place a name on the prayer chain list and your intention will be remembered for 30 days. *"Whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you will receive it, and you will?"* (Mark 11:24)

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**PARISH OFFICE**

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

Msgr. Thomas Maloney (305);

FatherThomas@stgregs.org

**PERMANENT DEACONS**

Deacon Michael G. Bochiechio;

Deacon Peter Donnelly; pdonnelly@stgregs.org

**PASTORAL ASSOCIATE**

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

**BUSINESS MANAGER**

Tina Calandra (306); tcalandra@stgregs.org

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS**

Greg Smith (303); gsmith@stgregs.org

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY**

Daniel A. Victoor (308); dvictoor@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

\*\*\*\*\*

Moving In? Moving Out?

Please contact us to register, or inform us of your departure.

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

**MONDAY 8:30 am - 4:00 pm**

**TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY**

**8:30 am - 8:00 pm**

**FRIDAY 8:30 am - 4:00 pm**

**SATURDAY 9:00 am - 4:00 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 the second and fourth Sundays 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*
- *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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