

# SPIRIT & LIFE

Spring 2024—St. Gregory the Great Parish

HOPE

## COUNTERCULTURAL: A CALL TO EVANGELIZE AND GROW



**BY MICHAEL LILLIS**  
*Chief Financial Officer/  
Chief Operations Officer*

It is crucial for St. Gregory the Great Church to continue to develop our

advancement plan to build relationships, secure resources, and further our mission and impact. This task is especially important, and can be especially tough, in a time when Catholic beliefs and traditions are becoming less popular. **How does a Catholic church move forward when support for our Faith's traditions is countercultural?**

The Buffalo News recently featured several letters from readers that were highly critical of the Diocese of Buffalo after

news of St. Lawrence, All Saints, and St. Andrew's Parishes closing. The viewpoints blamed the diocese's bankruptcy, the sex abuse scandal, and Church leadership for the decline.

I urge us to consider a critical factor often overlooked: consumer demand within our own faith community. Simply stated... Catholics are increasingly withdrawing support for the beliefs and traditions of our Faith. It is no surprise that poorly attended parishes and low-enrolled schools struggle to survive.

**Let's have our eyes wide open: St.**



*Easter Vigil at St. Greg's: 26 Candidates for sacraments and their sponsors surround the altar—hope for bucking a trend of decline.*

**Gregory's, like many other religious communities, is grappling with declining engagement and membership.** As seen in the table on page 4, over the last decade St. Greg's has experienced a significant decrease in both sacramental participation (baptisms, confirmations, marriages, etc.) and *Continued p. 2...*

## MY JOURNEY TO THE CATHOLIC FAITH



**BY CASSANDRA SUCHYNA**  
*Confirmed at the  
2024 Easter Vigil*

Growing up Pentecostal and going to school for Theology

taught me many beautiful things about Scripture. My parents showed me what it meant to be a faithful Christian. But, after a time, everything felt dull, **like the feeling when you eat and eat but you're still hungry.** Jesus was about to fill me.

When I met my husband David, I started to wonder and ask questions about his Catholic Faith. I thought I would win every argument, but I came up short every time. My pride kept me from wanting to understand. I just wanted to be right.

After we got married, I started to look deeper into the questions I couldn't answer. For example, Jesus describes, quite plainly, that He wants us to eat his Body and Blood. What a beautiful thing that I could not refuse, but I could not grasp it. I wanted to look deeper.

**We asked Fr. Leon to dinner to discuss my many, many questions, and I joined RCIA.** David was able to join me in all the meetings. He encouraged me to ask my hard questions and be myself. Michael and Hugh were the best teachers I could ever ask for. They were kind, patient, slow to speak, and quick to listen.

Waking early every Sunday morning to go to class was hard. Most *Continued p. 2...*

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the number of individuals registered with the parish.

This situation, while concerning, also provides an opportunity to delve deeper into the causes and strategies for revitalization. To tackle these challenges, we need to understand what people think about our faith traditions. This will help us create clear messages that show why our traditions matter. We also need to find new ways to connect with diverse groups of people and focus on shared values.

Strategies for revitalization include: increasing outreach efforts to better understand needs/expectations of our community; increasing parish involvement in local issues/charities; enhancing visibility (social media and other digital platforms); and fostering a sense of spiritual community and cooperation through ecumenical activities.

Sacramental and Membership Information  
St. Gregory the Great – 2013 -2023<sup>1</sup>

Fiscal Year	Number of Baptisms	Number of Confirmations	Number of Marriages	Number of 1 <sup>st</sup> Eucharist	Number of 1 <sup>st</sup> Penance	Number of Registered Individuals
2013-14	133	156	43	153	150	15,470
2014-15	102	145	24	154	159	15,786
2015-16	106	149	24	152	152	15,789
2016-17	91	149	19	152	152	15,858
2017-18	81	139	13	110	115	15,955
2018-19	61	120	14	111	124	15,961
2019-20	52	112	14	111	108	14,770
2020-21	42	97	19	114	81	13,236
2021-22	61	100	12	82	82	12,397
2022-23	58	98	8	89	89	11,670

<sup>1</sup> Source: Diocese of Buffalo – Annual Parish Statistical Report

For each individual parishioner, this underscores the importance of evangelization and fostering an authentic witness to everyone we encounter.

At this year's Easter Vigil, a remarkable 26 individuals received new sacraments. This is a powerful sign of hope. St. Gregory's possesses the capacity to rise to the occasion, lead others to Christ by example, and grow.

When people see genuine conviction and consistent living-out of one's beliefs, they are more likely to be intrigued and drawn to understand why and what we believe. This approach aligns with 1 Peter 3:15, which advises believers to "always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." ■

“...My Journey” From p. 1

days, I felt the enemy was trying to stop me from going. I experienced old temptations, fits of anger, terrible nightmares, and intense doubt. This only affirmed my decision to continue.



One day in the Café, I expressed my concerns about Marian teachings. But, there was a painting hanging right in front of me of Mary holding baby Jesus and a lamb. I couldn't stop staring at it. **Mary softened my heart at that moment. I knew she was trying to lead me to her Son.**

Through the year, our group met for dinner. We got to know each other, laugh and cry together, and talk about our Faith. I didn't expect that when I joined RCIA, I believe Jesus was/is doing something bigger than we could hope and pray for. **We needed to not only hear the truth about the Catholic Faith, but to see it lived out within each other outside of class.**

I wish I could write about every single class. Each one was a gift. I've learned so much about the Faith. It has made me feel full. **I don't feel that dullness and constant hunger I used to feel.**

I was able to have these experiences because I asked Jesus to open my heart to what He was trying to show me each time I went to Mass and to class. Even if I came in with disagreements, I asked questions and listened intently. I asked Jesus so often to remove my pride. I had to switch my perspective and my understanding. **It was tiring, lonely, and at times I felt hurt. I brought all these things to Jesus' feet when I went to Mass.** I asked for clarity and understanding, and He always came through.

I have faith in Christ's Church because, simply, He created it. He ordained it. "Upon this rock I will build My Church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it" (Matthew 16:18). **What Jesus has said, will be.** I have witnessed it in my classmates and in the lives of the saints. I have faith in His Church be-

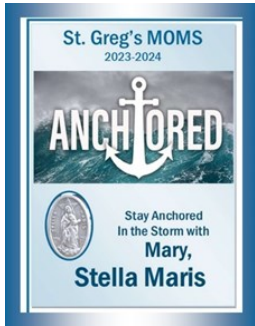
cause Jesus answers our prayers for clarity, understanding, and wisdom with His unending grace and mercy.

I have hope for the Catholic Church because of how much we suffer (James 1:2-4). I have hope because Jesus is always present within the Catholic Church. He dwells there always. He will never leave us empty. I pray earnestly for the Church to grow, to suffer, and for more souls to come to Jesus in the Eucharist.

We have a calling to be a part of our Church's mission, but we must be willing to come to God with open arms like Isaiah: "Here I am! Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8b). **Be willing, be open, be vulnerable to God's requests of you.** ■

*Be willing, be open, be vulnerable to God's requests of you.*

# ANCHORED AGAINST THE STORM



**BY DAWN IACONO**  
**MOMS Ministry Leader**  
 'Anchored' firmly against the cultural storm was our 2023-2024

theme for MOMS Ministry. Using the nautical metaphor to steer our Motherhood, we welcomed aboard moms of all ages and stages who are trying to ride the tidal wave of today's cultural currents and stay anchored in the deep uncharted waters that lie ahead for motherhood.



**SEPTEMBER:** We welcomed licensed psychotherapist Dan Lawson LMHC, CASAC aboard our Life Boat. He was a Life Saver, equipping us to navigate the current culture with a steady moral compass.



**OCTOBER:** Brittany Pearson of Healthy Catholic Moms gave a motivating presentation, eight-months-pregnant, on how to stay fit and anchored in healthy habits.



**NOVEMBER:** Fr. Matt Nycz talked to us about what the chilling future might hold for motherhood (AI artificial wombs?).



**DECEMBER:** Our annual Advent Social followed the Immaculate Conception Mass. Our Crafty Catholic MOMS event included vendors of

small businesses with homemade dog food, jewelry, candles, ornaments, cookies, and more, followed by Christmas punch and carols.

**JANUARY:** Still Marching for Life in a post-Roe America, we walked down Main St. in Buffalo, through the snow, as Life Guards. We went from UB to Canisius, where we ended our five-mile silent public witness for a greater respect for human life with Mass.



**FEBRUARY:** We took a deep dive with Dr. Paul Updike, Catholic father of nine and head addiction specialist for Catholic Health, who threw a Rope of Hope for those who have loved ones drowning, sinking, and strangled by addictions; chemical, physical, and social (media/cell phones).



**MARCH:** The 2nd Annual MOMS St. Joseph's Table sold out, followed by MOMStations. Mary Sendlack organized families to create and read the beautiful Stations for Children.



**APRIL** brought the water of rain showers but also Oceans of Mercy, with recording artist and Catholic author Fr. Bill Quinlivan, followed by our 23rd Annual MOMS Tea.



When moms feel like they're swimming against today's cultural current, we look to the Scripture from Isaiah 43:2,

"When you go through deep waters, I will be with you." It brings us comfort knowing we are all in this Life Boat together, anchored in our Faith, with Mary as our Lighthouse and Christ as our Beacon showing us the way. Connect with Catholic MOMS. Walk-ins are always welcome, and free babysitting is by request. ■

# CELEBRATING 20 YEARS—MEN OF GOD

**BY JEFF CRIDEN AND RAY GESKA**  
*Men of God Ministry Leaders*



Men of God (MOG) began 20 years ago after our

founder, Scott Marcus, completed RCIA and was welcomed into the Church at the Easter Vigil in 2003. Scott organized 12 men to meet each month at Buffalo Wild Wings and then in each other's homes. After the first year of the ministry, the gatherings moved to the Sister Maureen Room in the Ministry Center. Scott organized MOG for 10 years before passing leadership on to Jeff Criden and Ray Geska.

We have been blessed to lead this ministry at St. Greg's. We continue to meet the third Wednesday of each month in Gathering Room 2. Each month, we begin our gathering by praying the Holy Rosary. Then we have fellowship with food, followed with a heartfelt and prayerful discussion. We have had conversations about living faithfully as Catholic men, the Sunday Mass readings, and other points of interest about our Faith.

This year, in commemoration of our 20th anniversary as a ministry, we've extended invitations to men who were once involved with MOG and later became deacons to share their experiences with us as guest speakers. It has been a wonderful year to see and listen to the faith journey of our friends and deacons.

All men in our Family of Parishes are invited. As our ministry expands, we extend a warm welcome to you. ■



## BUILDINGS & GROUNDS UPDATES



**BY MARY BETH PFEIFFER**

*Director, Parish Operations*

Greetings, and thank you to all who have supported the parish's **CAPITAL FUND DRIVE**. We are most grateful



for your support of efforts to maintain our parish campus! As you may have already observed, **repairs to the exterior structures of the Church and School are either completed or currently underway**. Both projects will do much to ensure our current buildings remain standing for generations to come.



A little-known fact regarding our Ministry Center is that it has nine separate sections of roofing! Eight of those sections needed replacement. We sincerely appreciate your patience during temporary inconveniences, such as restricted access points and warmer indoor temperatures due to the removal of rooftop AC units for the roofing work.

The good news is: with new roofing on sections one through eight, and section nine having a five-year-old roof, the entire interior of the building will be protected from the elements!

Thank you also to those who have volunteered their time to participate in our **GARDEN CLUB**. The Garden Club has been hard at work since early April on our 25 garden beds (yes there are 25!), the Grotto, Rosary Walk, and 12 planters.

Their work has included picking up trash, weeding, planting, trimming, feeding with fertilizer, deadheading, and then back to picking up trash, weeding, trimming, and deadheading.

We thank the dedicated individuals who come regularly and work in the cold, light rain, and/or blazing sun every Tuesday morning!

**The Garden Club can always use an extra set of hands and are grateful for any amount of time that can be given.** No experience is necessary, as there are members who are experienced gardeners who will gladly show you the difference between a plant and a weed! If you are interested, please call the Parish Office, and leave your contact information with Mary Pfeiffer, Director of Parish Operations.



In closing, we would like to make a simple ask regarding the **GROTTO AREA AND THE GARDEN BEDS**

around the Ministry Center. Please know the Grotto was built to honor the Blessed Mother and provide an outdoor sanctuary for quiet prayer, reflection, or gatherings of groups to pray together. We kindly ask that people refrain from leaving glass vases of flowers, potted plants, religious items, bird baths, bird feeders, and scattering breadcrumbs. The last two items are of particular importance because seed and breadcrumbs attract mice and rats, which we do not want on our parish property.

**Thank you for your anticipated support** to keep the Grotto area as it was created to be and to discourage mice and/or rats from using our campus as a feeding ground. ■

## NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE



"Nearly 500 years ago, the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe changed the course of human history," says Cardinal Raymond Leo Burke. "Today, the hearts of Catholics around the world echo the same anxieties of 1531. Once again, the answer to this anxiety of our world is not temporal but spiritual."

Cardinal Burke is calling Catholics all over the world to pray a **NINE-MONTH NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**, which began this March. We will be praying along as a Parish Family. All are welcome to join in prayer, regardless of the duration. **The daily prayer ends on the Solemnity of Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12.** Sign up at [novena.cardinalburke.com](http://novena.cardinalburke.com).



- ✠ **Daily Prayer** - Printed copies of the prayer card are located in St. Greg's Church next to the Guadalupe picture and in the Vestibule.
- ✠ **Video Meditations** - Each month, His Eminence will send a short meditation on the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe, as well as some practical encouragement as you journey through these grace-filled months.
- ✠ **Written Reflections** - You will also receive reflections to draw you deeper into love for Our Lady and her Son. ■

## ADMINISTRATIVE PILLAR UPDATE



### BY RICHARD PFENTNER

The Administrative Pillar has been working on **establishing a Family name, creating a Family bulletin and website, developing consistent messaging for all the parishes, and communicating with other Pillars** on establishing best practices and improving programs.

All parishioners were invited to submit a potential **NAME FOR THE FAMILY OF PARISHES**. Over 350 potential names were submitted. The four most popular

were put out for a vote. The most popular name was submitted to the Diocese of Buffalo and approved. After careful tallying and consideration of all votes cast, **we are pleased to announce that the chosen Family name is SHEPHERD AND SAINTS ROMAN CATHOLIC FAMILY.**

Each individual parish will maintain their own name and identity. The name of the Family is a reference to collectively refer to all the parishes. **Soon, we will launch the FAMILY WEBSITE. We have created a FAMILY BULLETIN prototype, which will be used shortly.**

Over the past few months, progress had been made bringing our parishes together. Some ministries have different names but support similar causes. When a group has a unique mission, it will be made available to all of the parishes, which will increase the exposure and benefits it brings to the Family.

We have seen parishioners attending Mass and other functions at each other's parishes; this is promising, and it hopefully will continue. Each parish has their own strengths. As we pool resources, we will become a more efficient Family. ■

## SPIRITUAL LIFE PILLAR UPDATE



### BY RENEE BOLTRI

Buoyed by Easter hope of the Resurrection of Christ, which was celebrated spectacularly throughout our Family of Parishes, the Spiritual Life Pillar is pleased to share the results of our efforts since our last report.

Our Family's **LENTEN RETREAT** was masterfully organized by Brian Ruh. Our Pillar took on the task of gathering participants' comments. At every site and time offered, the comments exuded profound hope and appreciation, rooted in an ever-increasing desire to know

Jesus in the Eucharist.

During the Triduum, four of our Pillar members had the humbling and blessed experience of sharing personal reflections at the service of the **SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST**. Delightfully, we remarked that six months ago we didn't even know each other, and now we truly feel like family. Praise God.

**We are currently engaged in collaborative efforts to sustain existing spiritual ministries within our community.** We approach this task with confidence and respect for all who lead our parishes in a variety of devotional practices,

whether ordained or lay. **Additionally, we aim to provide ongoing encouragement to invite others to fuller participation in our faith community.** To this end, we anticipate a range of upcoming programs, some small-scale and others larger, specifically tailored to those seeking to deepen their faith, return to it, or explore it anew.

Please watch for upcoming notices of prayer opportunities. The strength of our Pillar's efforts relies on parishioners within our Family of Parishes who serve as witnesses to prayerful practices, all firmly rooted in the hope of the Eucharist. ■

## STEWARDSHIP PILLAR UPDATE



### BY ERIC BANNOCHIE

The Stewardship Pillar has been working together to create a unified **STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**. In the past seven months, we've achieved a lot, but there's more to do. While many of us are familiar with the term stewardship, some may still be unsure of its true meaning and relevance.

We are working closely with St. Greg's

Stewardship Committee, which has embraced the **3 T'S OF STEWARDSHIP** for years (Time, Talent, and Treasure). This year, we're introducing this to Good Shepherd and St. Pius X.

In February, we focused on Time. Time Cards were distributed with 20 suggested ways to deepen our relationship with God. Parishioners indicated their chosen activities, keeping half of the card as a reminder and placing the other half in the Collection basket as a

commitment for the year.

Next, we'll focus on Talent. Another card will list Liturgical Ministries in our parishes (Altar Servers, Lectors, Ushers, etc.). Parishioners can choose a ministry that fits them best.

Our goal is to educate everyone in our Family of Parishes on how Stewardship is vital for the Church's health and vibrancy. This is an invitation to deepen our commitment to prayer and ministry. ■

## SERVING IN HOPE

BY TIMOTHY SPELLMAN

### St. Vincent de Paul Society

The motto of the Society of St. Vincent dePaul, *Serviens in Spe*, means “To Serve in Hope.” We serve in hope by bringing the love of God to those who are poor and suffering, living in poverty, and facing discrimination.



*Our SVdP truck outside Sleep in Heavenly Peace workshop ready to load beds for Buffalo children.*

St. Gregory’s SVdP Conference was formed in the early 1960s, when the parish was founded, to serve the Town of Amherst. Over decades, we have expanded our scope from **VISITING THE SICK** at Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital, to purchasing a truck for collecting **FURNITURE AND APPLIANCE DONATIONS**, to many other forms of direct personal contact, practicing the Corporal Works of Mercy.

**We serve in hope by making 200 HOME VISITS annually to those most in need in WNY.** This is the central and most basic activity of SVdP Conferences and the clearest symbol of our Vincentian charism, which dictates the highest respect for the dignity of the poor. Vincentians “see the face of Christ in those we serve.” We are best able to assess the needs of the people we serve in their home environment.

**We bring hope by welcoming the stranger.** Working with other SVdP Conferences, Catholic Charities, and **REFUGEE SETTLEMENT** organizations in the region, **St. Gregory Vincentians helped 40 new families re-locate to the Buffalo area over the past two years.** Teams of volunteers have cleaned and painted apartments, moved furniture and appliances, and provided clothing to make dwellings into homes for those fleeing the perils of war and famine.

**We serve to bring hope to those imprisoned.** A small group of our SGG SVdP membership engages with the Kairos and Residents Encounter Christ organizations to spread the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to men at the Wende Correctional Facility in Alden. **Our volunteers participate in MONTHLY GROUP DISCUSSIONS WITH THE IMPRISONED, including Bible study, prayer, and faith sharing.**

**We feed the hungry.** Our parish’s **SPRING AND FALL FOOD DRIVES** not only supply food for our home visitations, but contribute to walk-in SVdP food pantries at St. Timothy’s and St. Francis of Assisi in Tonawanda, and the Response to Love Center and St. Luke’s Mission of Mercy in Buffalo.

Thank you, St. Gregory parishioners, for your support of St. Vincent dePaul, to bring hope to our WNY neighbors in need. ■

## WATCHING TEENS GROW

BY MICHAEL J. RUSZALA

### Director of Family Faith Formation

One of the most rewarding aspects of being part of our Family Faith Formation program is seeing so much fruit, including among our teenagers:



*Group shot and Adoration at the High School Spring Retreat.*

- ✦ **Lately, our teens have shown a special openness to prayer.** They often choose visits to our Adoration Chapel as part of their requirements for their Confirmation experiences—an opportunity for peace within their sometimes busy and confusing lives.
- ✦ Our Monday evening classes for Grades 5-10 begin by gathering in the Gym, where **we create space for quiet prayer and lead a decade of the Rosary.**
- ✦ When some of our key older volunteers had to step back from their roles, many of our 88 Confirmation candidates **volunteered for our parish’s core fundraisers.**
- ✦ Teens who were involved in volunteering in younger Faith Formation classes expressed how impactful it was to **share their Faith with the children.**
- ✦ It’s not uncommon to find teens from Family Faith Formation actively **engaged in various aspects of parish life**, such as Music Ministry and Youth Ministry.
- ✦ While society says that teens and parents often have rough patches, many of our teens at our recent Confirmation retreats named their parents and grandparents among the people they most look up to and respect.
- ✦ Several of our classes were fortunate to have unique experiences through **special productions and visits from our Youth Ministers.**
- ✦ Our teens regularly meet with their Confirmation Sponsors and develop connections with their Catechists.
- ✦ Many participated in a **Family of Parishes Confirmation Retreat** at St. Pius X, while others joined the two retreats organized by the Youth Ministry.
- ✦ I’ve seen a personal transformation in some teens in our program. A number of teens have also **returned to church and first sacraments through our programs.**
- ✦ **Several teens received First Communion at the Easter Vigil this year.**

*Our teens have shown a special openness to prayer.*

Their journey continued through a family evangelization program and **volunteering for retreats for younger children.** ■



### SHARED SUPPER

*Rosemary Spano*

The Shared Supper this year was a resounding success!

We set up for 224 guests, and though we do not have an exact count, few seats were empty. There was plenty of food, and Fr. Leon did his usual great job of keeping the tables moving. Lots of fellowship! Next year, back to three cakes! ■



### LIFE TEEN VOCATIONS NIGHT

*Kaitlyn Hogg* In March, we invited Sr.

Grace Dikeson, Fr. Leon, and John and Lori Hogg to Life Teen to speak

about their vocational discernment testimonies. Teens were guided in understanding the importance of discerning God's call for their lives. We broke the teens into small groups and each group got to hear powerful testimonies on discerning Religious Life and Priesthood, and to see what a Christ-Centered marriage looks like. This night inspired teens to listen to God's voice and hear how following God's plan for their life leads to fulfillment and joy. ■



### BOY SCOUTS *Deacon Michael Brock* St.

Greg's Boy Scouts received their Ad Altare Dei religious medals from Bishop Mike. St. Greg's Troop had the highest

number of Ad Altare Dei recipients of any troop in WNY. ■



### LIVING STATIONS OF THE

*CROSS Kaitlyn Hogg*

Every year the Youth Ministry teens lead our parish in the Living

Stations of the Cross to remember Jesus' great sacrifice for us. While there are rehearsals, scripts, music, lights, and costumes, this is not a performance. It is a deep prayerful experience for everyone involved. Many who encountered Jesus on His journey of carrying the cross experienced conversion. The same happens today for those who encounter Him. To walk in Jesus' footsteps is a very powerful experience for the teens. The Living Stations strikes hearts because we are reminded how our God loves us so much He chose to die for us. ■



### JAMAICA MISSION *Liz Astridge*

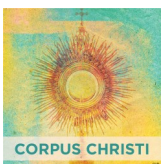
Our 2024 Jamaica Mission Trip Team (and a few extra helpers) spent a Saturday morning at St.

Luke's Mission of Mercy to help

our community here in Buffalo and get to know one another before the Mission Trip in July.

If you are interested in supporting our Jamaica Mission Trip, we would be very grateful for any monetary donation you are able to make. Checks can be made out to St. Gregory the Great and mailed to the Parish Office "ATTN: Jamaica Mission Trip." Any questions, please contact Liz at [stgregsmissiontrip@gmail.com](mailto:stgregsmissiontrip@gmail.com). We thank you for your generosity! ■

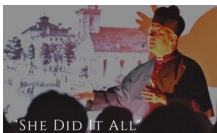
## UPCOMING EVENTS



**CORPUS CHRISTI CELEBRATION** Please join parishioners from St. Pius X and Good Shepherd at the **12:00 noon Mass at St.**

**Greg's on Sunday, June 2**, with a Eucharistic procession following, to four outdoor altars

on our grounds. This public procession, with Jesus at its center, is a beautiful way to celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus and take God into the world around us. **Light refreshments to follow.**



**SHE DID IT ALL! Wednesday, June 5, at**

**6:30 pm** in the Church, St. Gregory the Great Parish welcomes Mike Sacilowski and his FREE live, theatrical, one-man

presentation of Fr. Nelson Baker, entitled "She Did It All!" From a typical family in Buffalo, you will see how he placed his life in the hands of Our Lady of Victory while dedicating his life to the marginalized, poor, and orphaned. Accompany Father Baker as he guided thousands of orphaned and wayward boys and built a basilica to give thanks and honor to the Mother of God for her constant patronage.



**PAUL ZUCARELLI** had nine cardiac arrests and was dead for two hours.

Paul received a miraculous healing on Pentecost Sunday, 2017, and now shares his testimony about Heaven and

God's love and mercy. We are excited to announce that this nationally known speaker and author will be coming to St. Gregory the Great! Come and see Paul share his personal testimony **Tuesday, June 11, at 12:45 pm and again at 6:30 pm** in St. Greg's Church. All are welcome to this FREE event!



**GREAT RACE** Please join us on **June**

**14** for the 27th Annual St. Greg's Great Race! With over 1,000 runners and walkers taking part in the event, along with thousands of other spectators who come out

annually to support the church, this is one race you don't want to miss! **Kids 1K Race at 6:00 pm. 5K Race at 7:00 pm. Post-Race Party until 11:00 pm.** See more information at [stgregs.org/great-race](http://stgregs.org/great-race). ■



# ST. GREGORY THE GREAT PARISH

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A talented cast of students entertained us with the production of Annie Kids on April 18-19. It was an incredible success.

*Spirit and Life* is a quarterly publication of St. Gregory the Great Parish. Your comments, questions, and suggestions are invited. Editor: Grace Suchyna ([gsuchyna@stgregs.org](mailto:gsuchyna@stgregs.org)). We are grateful to Liturgical Publications, whose benevolence enables us to provide this service to our parishioners.

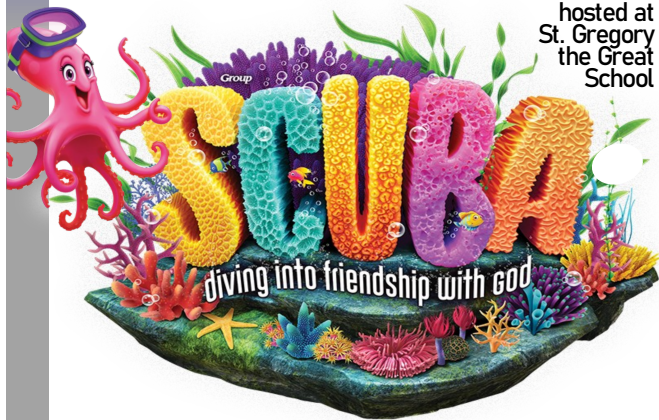
## SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH — FAMILY OF PARISHES

Family 19: St. Greg's, St. Pius X, and Good Shepherd

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 8-12 • 9:00 am - 12:00 noon

hosted at  
St. Gregory  
the Great  
School



Music and Prayer • Refreshments  
Drama • Games • Crafts  
Petting Zoo • Pony Rides  
Friday Finale Show & Ice Cream Social



### Disciple Camp (Gr 5-10)

is a high impact Faith Formation program that covers the full instructional elements of the Diocese of Buffalo curriculum for each grade and is supplemented by an organized participation in parish life and service throughout the year.

For more details go to our website at  
[stgregs.org/family-faith-formation](http://stgregs.org/family-faith-formation)

**CLASS DATES AND TIMES:** Thursday, June 27 - Wednesday, July 3, breaking for the weekend. Class times are from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Students are not permitted to leave early. **ONLINE REGISTRATION:** May 1-31 at [stgregs.org](http://stgregs.org) or via the QR code.

