My soul thirsts for you.

PSALM 63
FIRST READING
Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38)

PSALM
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (Ps 23) or Alleluia.

SECOND READING
He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. (1 Pt 2:24)

GOSPEL
“I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.” (Jn 10:9)

GOSPEL MEDITATION
Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

With whom do we converse and listen to the most? Believe it or not, the answer is ourselves. We are constantly having conversations with ourselves, and sometimes we even get caught! Our inner conversations reveal the truth about ourselves. We really cannot hide from ourselves, although we often pretend we can. By conversing with ourselves, we find solutions to our challenges, problem solve, work through our relationships, formulate opinions, run through dress rehearsals of possible conversations, and wrestle with and determine our system of priorities and values. What other voices affect the conversations we have with ourselves?

Often, voices from our past continue to haunt us. These voices cause us to mistrust our judgment, harbor anger, and cling to our fears of rejection, failure, being wrong, and the like. It is in these inner conversations that we face what holds us captive — our limitations, weaknesses, sinfulness, and stubborn ego preoccupations. We often go about our lives putting out one fire or another, keeping ourselves preoccupied and busy, and trying to stay on top of things. Intentionally or unintentionally, we find ourselves wandering off. We turn around and can no longer see our home. We look down at our feet and realize we have lost our anchor. Feeling scared, out of place, desolate, unsettled, and lonely, we realize that we are lost.

We listened to the wrong voices! In the midst of everything competing for our attention, the voice of the One who could truly call us home got muffled. We didn't hear it. As our inner dialogues continue to play out, the one voice we need to consult — even before our own — is God’s. He is the Good Shepherd who can keep us safely where we need to be. As we graze through the stuff of our lives, we must constantly remember to look up, be attentive, and stay focused. Our habits of prayer are the only thing that can properly root us and keep us grounded. Contemplating God's presence and developing an inner awareness of love incarnate, we will then find ourselves praying unceasingly as the days and nights and the ebbs and flows of our of lives unfold. Suddenly, the inner conversations we are constantly having are no longer just with ourselves or with voices that can lead us astray but with the Trinity, who desperately wants us to stay home.

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2020 | 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
LITURGICAL LIFE

RESPONDING to the Call

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP
Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

Recognizing the Voice of Jesus

When my wireless provider introduced HD Voice, the voice I heard on my phone was unbelievably clear, and it felt at times like both the caller and I were in the same room. The best aspect of this feature is that it didn't cost the customer any additional fees, and it didn't require any changes to the phone. I could say it was free, but I suspect I was already paying for it in my monthly bill anyway. At least it felt free.

The clearer the voice calling you, the easier it is to recognize who it is on the other end of the line. In John's Gospel, Jesus speaks of the gatekeeper who opens the gate and calls for his sheep. They respond because they know his voice. Others try to lure the sheep when the gatekeeper is not there, but the sheep find their voices unclear or unfamiliar.

Jesus is our gatekeeper. But unlike receiving something for free from a wireless company, to be able to hear his voice we need to pay attention and practice listening. By developing a stewardship way of life that is mindful and prayerful, we become attuned to his voice and are able to discern when the call is from our Lord and when it is from an imposter. It is great to talk about all the things we can do and all the gifts we can share, but if we are not listening for his call to hear where our offerings are needed, we can end up like a lost sheep searching for the gatekeeper.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!

WHY DO WE DO THAT?
Catholic Life Explained:
Daily Prayer Versus Mass?

Question:
I have a friend who says she doesn't need to attend Mass because she prays to God every day. What are your thoughts on this justification?

Answer:
If the only reason for going to church were to talk to God, your friend might be right. Prayer is not something limited to a physical place or even a holy place. If the sole purpose of the Church were prayer, it would be a narrow purpose indeed. The Church is a community of believers, formed by “one Lord, one faith, one Baptism.” It is an outward sign of our faith in God instituted by Christ, and the purpose of the Church is to give us grace, that is, a share in God's life.

Coming to Mass is not really for God's sake, but for ours. If we believe that Jesus is truly present in the holy Eucharist, then we will want to be in his presence. We will want to be fed by him. Our daily prayer and good works are strengthened by our authentic encounter with our Lord. For Catholics, it is at Mass that we celebrate the source and summit of our faith. If this is true, why would we ever stay away?

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2020 | 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Prayer for Specific Needs

For Medical Researchers

God of Compassion,
we give thanks for the breakthroughs of modern medicine,
and especially for scientists who develop new medications and treatments and researchers who develop and test vaccines.

Give them the energy and stamina to do the painstaking research and testing required to demonstrate effectiveness and safety.

May efforts to slow the spread of the virus buy precious time until reliable treatments and an effective vaccine change the course of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We pray through Christ our Lord.

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ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry continues to operate on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month from 10:00-Noon. If you are in need of assistance prior to the scheduled days, please call the Parish Office at 414-543-8292, or email us at SVDP@stgregsmil.org. All requests for assistance are confidential. Now more than ever, we are here to help.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

MAY 3, 2020:
FOR VOCATIONS

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

......For the sick and hospitalized......

For the deceased members of St. Gregory the Great.
May they rest in Christ’s peace.

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PRAY

Compassionate and Loving Father,
In the face of confusion and concern impart to us the calm of Your presence.
In You allow us to find hope and healing.
Be with those who serve the sick and give them Your caring hands.
Be with those who lead and give them Your spirit of wisdom.
Be with those who have fallen ill and give them Your comforting heart.
Wrap Your arms around our world and hold us in Your love.
Allow us at this time of trial to then serve as instruments of that love to all we meet.
We ask this in Your Name.
Amen
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“I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.”

— Jn 10:9-10


LITURGICAL LIFE

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

Luke tells us that Peter often testified: “Save yourself from this corrupt generation.” How is this message still applicable today?

Second Reading

Peter asserts that the virtue of patience in one’s suffering is a grace from God because Jesus modeled patient suffering. How does the exercise of this spiritual disposition help bring peace of mind?

Gospel Reading

Using the metaphor of sheep and gatekeeper, Jesus teaches his disciples the importance of remaining focused on his voice. Why do you think people are so easily distracted from other voices?

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD.

PSALM 23

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2020 | 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Saint Gregory the Great Parish Staff  
Here to Serve You

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Alumni Association:  
stgregorythegreatalumni@archmil.org

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Mary Gentile, Vice-Chairperson
Lauran Vetuschi, Secretary
Donna Higgins, Trustee Secretary
Marge Fischer, Trustee Treasurer

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS

MASS SCHEDULE

The celebration of public Masses, both daily and weekend  
have been suspended until further notice. Archbishop  
Listecki will provide new directives as to when we can  
celebrate public Masses in our own churches. We  
continue to pray for the health of you and your families and  
look forward for the time when we can safely pray together  
in our own church.

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