

48 SOUTH PEARL STREET • NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428

# ST. GREGORY THAUMATURGUS

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

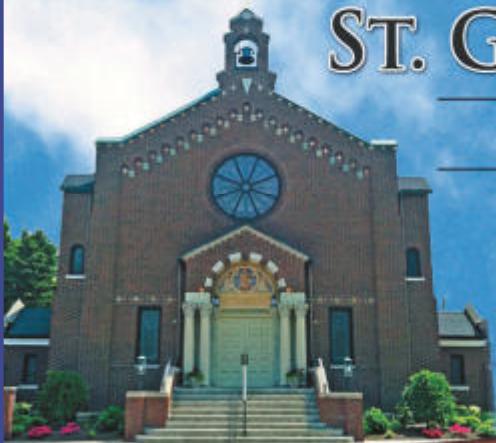
PARISH OFFICE: 136 W. MAIN ST. • NORTH EAST, PA 16428

Parish Office Phone: 814-725-9691 • Fax: 814-725-1225

Website: [www.stgregoryparish.info](http://www.stgregoryparish.info) • Email: [stgregs@roadrunner.com](mailto:stgregs@roadrunner.com)

School Phone: 814-725-4571 • Cemetery Phone: 814-725-9691

OFFICE HOURS: Monday–Thursday: 9AM–3PM; Friday: 9AM–Noon



MAY 16, 2021

## FIRST COMMUNION 2021

*St. Gregory Thaumaturgus*

*I am the vine,  
You are the branches.*



May 2, 2021



*A Welcoming Family Of Faith  
In The Heart Of  
North East, Pennsylvania*



*Celebrating Our 146th Anniversary  
As A Parish Family And The  
96th Anniversary Of Our Church*

#### SACRAMENT INFORMATION

**Baptism** – A baptism preparation session is required of all parents wishing to have their child(ren) baptized. Parents must pre-register for the session. Baptisms are celebrated during Mass, following the last Mass on Sunday, or by special arrangement. Please schedule by calling the Parish Office.

**First Reconciliation/Eucharist** – Children entering the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grades and who are active in the Faith Formation process (including St. Gregory Parish School children) are eligible to enter the sacramental preparation sessions. Sacraments are celebrated in late winter and spring.

**Confirmation** – High School youth who are entering the 11<sup>th</sup> grade and who are active in the Faith Formation process or attend a Catholic High School are eligible to enter the Confirmation preparation program. Sessions begin in the fall and Confirmation is celebrated in the spring.

**Matrimony** – Call the Parish Office at least 6 months prior to the anticipated wedding date. Church date and arrangements should precede all other wedding plans.

**Anointing of the Sick** – The Sacrament is available to all those who are seriously ill or advanced in age. Please call the Parish Office to request a visit by the priest.

**Reconciliation** – The sacrament is celebrated weekly on Saturday from 4:00 – 4:30 PM, or by request. There are two multi-parish celebrations during Advent and Lent.

#### PARISHIONER INFORMATION

We are a welcoming Family of Faith who rejoice in God's many blessings! All members of the Parish receive envelopes and parish mailings. St. Gregory Parish is a Sacrificial Giving Parish, committed to serving the Lord through use of God-given time, talent and treasure. Please use the membership form in the bulletin or visit the Parish Office to register.

#### CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children ages 4-10 are invited to participate in a special Liturgy of the Word during the 9:00 AM Sunday Mass.

#### BULLETIN INFORMATION

Groups or individuals wishing to have information published in the bulletin are asked to submit the information in writing, by e-mail or by phone call by Monday at 1:00 PM.

#### RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Interested in the Catholic Faith? Desire to receive the Sacraments you missed like Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation? The R.C.I.A. process is meant for you! Please call the Parish Office for more information.

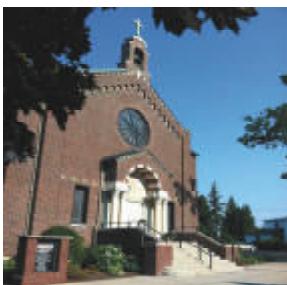
#### PRAYER LINE

Add your request for prayer by calling Rosemary Repko at 814-602-6271

#### THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

Including the office for The Protection Of Children and Youth  
<http://www.eriercd.org/protectyouth.htm>

## *Saint Gregory Thaumaturgus Parish At A Glance...*



**St. Gregory Church**  
48 South Pearl St. 814-725-9691  
Pastor, Rev. Thomas Brooks

Permanent Deacon,  
Rev. Mr. Richard Winschel



**St. Gregory Parish Office  
and Our Mother of  
Perpetual Help Chapel**  
136 W. Main St.  
814-725-9691  
Fax 814-725-1225  
[www.stgregoryparish.info](http://www.stgregoryparish.info)  
[stgregs@roadrunner.com](mailto:stgregs@roadrunner.com)



**St. Gregory Parish School**  
140 W. Main St.  
814-725-4571  
Fax 814-725-4572  
[gregory1@stgregs.net](mailto:gregory1@stgregs.net)  
[www.stgregs.net](http://www.stgregs.net)



**St. Gregory Cemetery**  
West Main St. & Brickyard Rd  
814-725-9691

Dear Members and Friends of the St. Gregory Parish Family,

If you are familiar with the St. Gregory Parish office/chapel/rectory complex, then you may know that there is a garage on the far north end of the building. It was built by our very dedicated Knights of Columbus. While I wasn't here at the time, I'm sure I speak for all the priests who have appreciated having a garage immediately attached to the house! It's a well-constructed addition to the original building and has three doors; a garage door for the car, and two "person doors," one in the front adjacent to the garage door, and one in the back. Immediately outside the front "person door," there are two domestic grape vines that are just loaded with grapes at fall harvest time.

I've set the scene, friends, so that you can more easily imagine what happened one beautiful fall morning when the wonderful aroma of grapes filled the air all throughout the North East area. It was a Saturday, and I decided to tackle some "*lawn and garden*" chores bright and early. I gathered together a few tools from inside the garage, and then opened and stepped out of the front "person door." I was totally surprised to see a large deer, right in front of me, munching away at my potential grape harvest! The deer took one look at me and then bolted off behind the school building. I took the same "*one look*" at him and went right back in through the door I had just emerged from. My reaction really wasn't one of fear, it was one of shock to have such an unanticipated encounter with nature the first thing in the morning!

I'm relaying this particular story to you today for two particular reasons. The first is that it is the same story I happened to share with the First Communion Class of 2021 on Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. You may recall that the Gospel that particular Sunday offered us Jesus' reminder that, "*I am the vine, you are the branches.*" The two grape vines that I referred to in that story, then and today, were actually blessed in church and planted following two previous celebrations of First Holy Communion here at St. Gregory. They continue to be a great reminder of Jesus' invitation to stay close to Him, to grow in His love, and to bear much fruit.

The second reason for sharing this particular story is that the First Communion Class for this year now have their own vine ready to plant! It will be planted near the other two, carefully guarded and nurtured, until it matures and is ready to produce fruit. Like the other two, it is meant to remind them that we need to cultivate our lives through prayer, reflection on God's Word, and frequent reception of the Holy Eucharist if we are to grow in to the Christians that we hope to be. It's not "*automatic*," rather it is a process whereby we stay close to the true Vine and grow in our friendship with Christ. Those of you who have this wonderful friendship with Jesus know exactly what I'm talking about and rejoice in all the "*fruit*," the love and service you are able to offer Him!

In the Gospel of St. John, friends, there are several passages that speak to us of the abiding friendship the Lord desires to have with us, His tremendous love for us, and the joy that can come from that relationship. We often refer to them as the "*I am sayings*," and there are seven of them. Can you recall some or all of them?

They are: "*I am the bread of life.*" (John 6,35) "*I am the light of the world.*" (John 8,12) "*I am the sheepgate.*" (John 10,7) "*I am the good shepherd.*" (John 10,11) "*I am the resurrection and the life.*" (John 11,25) "*I am the way, the truth and the life.*" (John 14,6) And, as previously mentioned, "*I am the true vine.*" (John 15,1)

As we read how Jesus identifies himself in these ways, surely we consider the proposal that we are invited to reciprocate. For example, if Jesus tells us, "*I am the light of the world,*" could we possibly respond by saying, "*I am someone who accepts and rejoices in the light.*" Or, by affirming, "*I am a friend of the light who hopes to share the light with others.*" The very fact that Jesus says, "*I am the vine and you are the branches*" (John 15,5) reminds us that Jesus always desires to stay connected to us and remain with us in all of the experiences of our daily lives. We are never really alone! He is always present to comfort, renew, and encourage us! Yes, even in the surprises of life and when a deer may be enjoying his fill of our grapes!



Two students from the First Holy Communion Class of 2021 take a closer look at their commemorative grape vine before it will be planted.

May God bless, keep, and be with you, friends, as we prepare to celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost next weekend! Wear red or some other bright color, if you can, to remind us that the fire of the Spirit is alive, well, and abiding in us!

*Fr. Tom*



Way back when...current 12th grade students, soon to be high school graduates, take a look at the vine that was planted to celebrated their First Holy Communion in 2012.

Mark your calendar...

### *Disney Designer Purse BINGO*

Sunday, June 13, 2021  
St. Gregory School Gym  
Doors open at 12:30 PM  
BINGO begins at 2:00 PM  
More details to follow at a later date!



*"The name of Jesus is in fact the great foundation of the faith that turns people into children of God. The Catholic Faith indeed, consists in the news of Jesus Christ, as light of the soul, gate of life and foundation of eternal salvation."*



[www.afcmmedia.org](http://www.afcmmedia.org)



*"In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."*

*-Abraham Lincoln*

**Saint Bernardine of Siena**  
*Pray for us*

**Feast Day Thursday, May 20th**

## *First Holy Communion Class of 2021*

*Penelope Ambergcrombie*

*Torin Dunlavey*

*Dylan Forsythe*

*Lyla Grande*

*Trevor Hansen*

*Anton Johnson*

*Brayden Lemke*

*Erin Lindahl*



*Ronald Luther*

*Charlee Mackell*

*Harper Migiacchio*

*Lexi Moore*

*Rita Reedy*

*Ryder Rexford*

*Audrey Schiedel*

*Congratulations and God Bless!*



## **Celebration of May Crowning May 5, 2021**

*"O Mary we crown thee with blossoms today,  
Queen of the Angels, Queen of the May"*

## Celebration Of Baptism

We welcome **Lucia Rose Maas** into the One Holy Catholic Church by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Lucia's parents are Chris and Carly (Eades) Maas and her godparents are Darren Eades and Sharon Maas. Congratulations and God Bless!



The St. Gregory Wonder-Workers are planning on having their annual Rummage Sale later in the summer. Please hold on to those items you have been saving to help the Wonder-Workers who work so hard and are so generous in supporting the Parish Family. Your kindness and patience are truly appreciated!

**RUMMAGE  
SALE**

## CEMETERY CARE

This time of year means doing our best to make sure the cemetery is prepared for Memorial Day and your visits throughout the summer months.

Please assist our effort by using the receptacles provided to dispose of debris, as well as pots and containers your flowers and plants may come in.

There is no dumping permitted anywhere on the cemetery grounds.

Thank you so very much!



Each year the Diocese of Erie is honored to celebrate milestone anniversaries with couples throughout our 13-county diocese. We are already looking forward to an in-person celebration in **August of 2021**.

- St. Jude the Apostle Parish in Erie will be hosting Erie Area couples on Sunday, August 8, 2021 at 2:00pm
- Couples who are celebrating their 25th, 50th, 60th or 60+ anniversary will be welcome to register and formally join the celebration.
- For more information and to register, go to [www.eriercd.org/familylifeoffice/anniv.html](http://www.eriercd.org/familylifeoffice/anniv.html) or contact the diocesan Faith Formation Office at 814-824-1210.

## International Needs Collection this weekend

Many countries transitioning from the former communist regimes in Eastern Europe continue to be stricken by poverty. In Albania, a country that experienced a particularly harsh form of communism, many young women facing extreme poverty succumb to misleading promises of marriage or work opportunities, drop out of school, and travel abroad. Separated by their families, they often find themselves in the difficult circumstances of domestic violence or even forced prostitution. The Catholic Church of Albania, which is being restored after the fall of communism, is at the forefront of helping young women overcome these risks through tuition support, the arts, faith activities, and culinary workshops that prepare them for work that allows them to support themselves. When you participate in this collection, you help make education and life opportunities a reality for at risk youth. Thank you for your generous support!



Meeting on Wednesday, May 19th, in the Parish Family Room (lower-level of the Church.) The Rosary will be prayed at 6:40 PM with the meeting to follow at 7:00 PM.

**MONDAY, May 17**

8:00 AM–Rosina &amp; Sam Piazza–Their son John Piazza

**TUESDAY, May 18**

8:00 AM– Anthony Destro– Wife Jacqueline

**WEDNESDAY, May 19**

8:00 AM –Karen Williams– Husband &amp; Family

**\*THURSDAY, May 20**

8:00 AM– Patty Scouten-Mitzi Keough

**FRIDAY, May 21**

8:00 AM –Rev. John A. Kuzilla– Mary Ollinger

**SATURDAY, May 22**

5:00 PM– Parishioners Living &amp; Deceased

**SUNDAY, May 23**

7:30 AM-Sr. Mary Bernard Lander-Joe &amp; Tamie Lander

9:00 AM-Ann Coletta-Andy &amp; Theresa Bennardo

11:00 AM– Ann L. Carlin-Knights of Columbus

\*Please note: The Mass on Thursday, May 20th will be at 8:00 AM



Next Sunday, May 23rd,  
is Pentecost Sunday.  
Celebrate the Holy Spirit by  
wearing something red or a  
bright color to Mass!



The SANCTUARY LAMP is burning this week in honor of  
**The Blessed Sacrament**  
and in memory of  
**Trippi Family**  
by  
Jo Malta

**WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION**

May 8/9, 2021

Envelopes Mailed .....	596
Regular Envelopes Used.....	102
Amount in Adult's Envelopes .....	\$7,065.00
Loose .....	\$257.00
Building Maintenance .....	\$270.00
Electronic Giving .....	\$523.30
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	\$8,115.30
Fiscal year-to-date offertory collection.....	\$354,183.44
Fiscal year-to-date offertory budget.....	\$346,153.95

Please remember our deceased in your prayers...

**Carol Freeman** (sister of Delores Newara)

*Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord.*



Confessions will be heard on Saturday from 4:00-4:30 PM in the sacristy.

Please remember masks, covering nose and mouth, are required at all times when in church and remember to maintain social distancing.

**St. Gregory Church Membership Form** (Please drop Membership Form into the offertory basket or mail to Parish Office)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

- New Registration
- Change of Address
- Moving out of Parish
- Want Envelopes

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