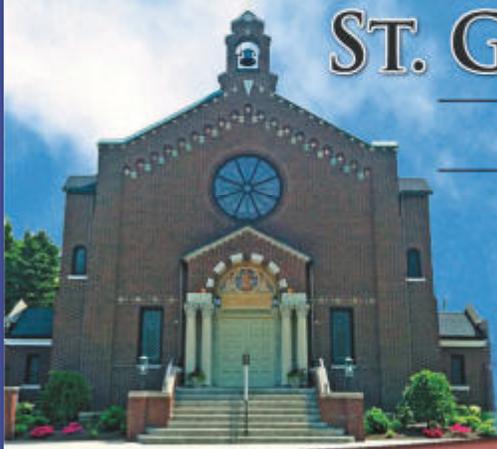


48 SOUTH PEARL STREET • NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428

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 • Email: stgregs@roadrunner.com

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

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

MASS SCHEDULE

Fall/Winter

Saturday.....5:00 PM

Sunday....7:30, 9:00 & Noon

Weekday

Mon., Tues. Wed. & Fri.: 8:00 AM

Thursday....12:10 PM

*Our Mother of Perpetual Help Devotion
following the 8:00 AM Mass on
Wednesday*

STAFF

Pastor, Rev. Thomas Brooks

*Permanent Deacon,
Rev. Mr. Richard Winschel,*

*Transitional Deacon,
Rev. Mr. Nicholas Fratus*

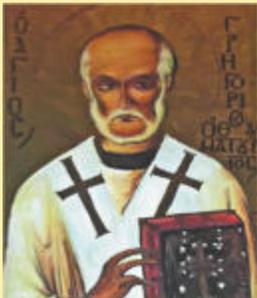
Pastoral Minister, Cindy Riefstahl

Faith Formation Leader, Jennifer Humes

Administrative Assistant, Patti Prindle

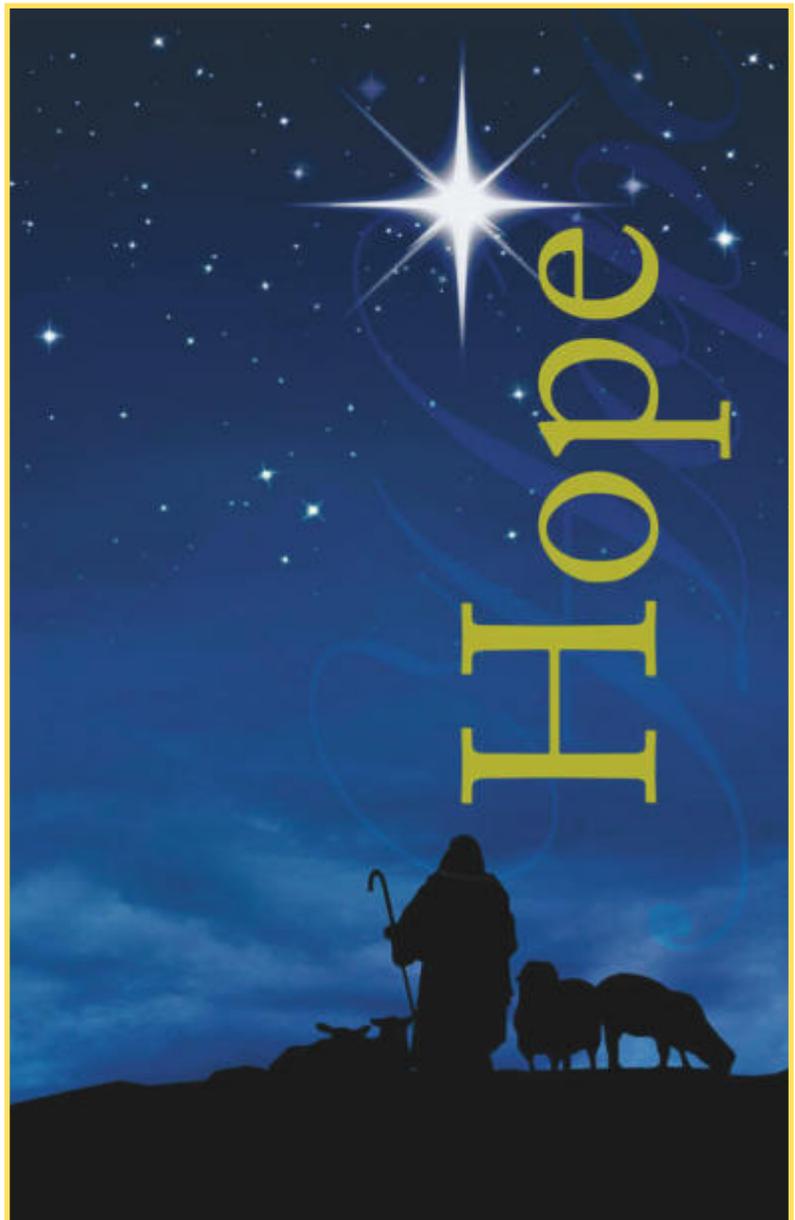
Director of Sacred Music, Corey Spacht

*School Principal Team:,Mrs. Amy Kloss,
Ms. Nancy Pierce*



St. Gregory
Thaumaturgus,
Wonder-Worker,
inspire us to a
more lively faith,
hope and charity
through prayer,
love for God and
generous service
to God's people.
Amen!

NOVEMBER 28, 2021 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



*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 2nd & 3rd 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 11th 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.

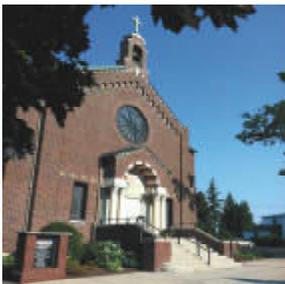
PRAYER LINE

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.eriecd.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
stgregs@roadrunner.com



St. Gregory Parish School
140 W. Main St.
814-725-4571
Fax 814-725-4572
ggregory1@stgregs.net
www.stgregs.net



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

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

A new liturgical year begins for us at St. Gregory Thaumaturgus and as all our brothers and sisters everywhere gather for the First Sunday of the Advent Season! Here at home, we have decided to focus on four specific words as we journey through this very special time together. So, here we are, and our first word is: “*Hope*.”

Now, one of the images that quickly comes to mind when I think about the word “*Hope*” is an anchor. It’s actually an ancient Christian symbol that reminds us – if the Church is like a boat making its way through the waters of time, then we need to remain anchored to Christ! With that in mind, I want to share a verse that comes to us from the late American Poet, Edwin Markham. To really appreciate it, however, there is some very interesting “*backstory*” you need to be aware of.

It seems likely that, at one time or another, most of us have paid a visit to Niagara Falls. After all, it’s one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world and we don’t live all that far away. In fact, it’s also likely that many have used one of the bridges that span the Niagara River to cross over to the Canadian side and then back to the U.S.A. Well, friends, what many of us have experienced with some degree of ease was not at all possible until the idea for bridging the Niagara River came about in the mid 1800’s.

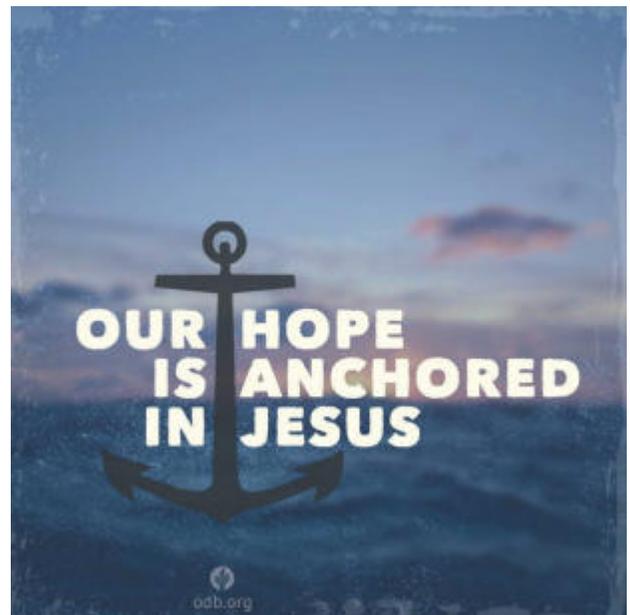
In the year 1847, a civil engineer named Charles Ellet, Jr. was entrusted with the responsibility to both select an appropriate site for a bridge across the Niagara River and to construct it. Ellet chose a spot on the river that seemed reasonable, but was still 761 feet from one river bank to the other. Some sources note the distance as 800 feet, however, either was quite a distance at the time of proposed construction and in an area near what we now refer to as “*the Whirlpool*.” How would they ever get a cable to cross the span considering both distance and location?!

Well, either Charles Ellet or Theodore Hulett, the supervisor of building works for the project, came up with a most intriguing idea. They would host a “*kite flying*” contest! That’s right, friends, the plan was to award a prize of \$5.00 to the person who could fly his or her kite across the river, one side to the other, with the string remaining unbroken. The Grand Prize, worth about \$175.00 today, was awarded to a 16 year-old named Homan Walsh who refused to give up, even though his first attempt ended in failure. Once the string was tied from one riverbank to the other, Ellet began the process of pulling a pilot line across the span, followed by stronger rope, and eventually a braided metal cable. It wasn’t much of a “*bridge*” as we know bridges today, but it was certainly a great beginning and well noted in the history of the area.

How Edwin Markham came to know about all this is uncertain, but it inspired him to pen the following:

The builder who first bridged Niagara’s gorge,
Before he swung his cable, shore to shore,
Sent out across the gulf his venturing kite
Bearing a slender cord for unseen hands
To grasp upon the further cliff and draw
A greater cord and then a greater yet;
Till at last across the chasm swung
The cable then the mighty bridge in air!

So we may send our little timid thought
Across the void, out to God’s reaching hands –
Send out our love and faith to thread the deep –
Thought after thought until the little cord
Has greated to a chain no chance can break,
And we are anchored to the Infinite!



Isn't that a great thought, my friends? That we are "*anchored*" to the infinite! That there is truly "*Hope*" in a God who is there for us, who is attentive to us, and who rejoices in every attempt we make to strengthen our bonds with Him!

The first reading this weekend, as we enter into the Advent Season, is taken from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah addresses a people who have placed their trust in God and who have hoped and prayed for a "*Messiah*," a deliverer who will lead and restore them. Jeremiah reminds them that their fidelity will eventually be rewarded and their hope fulfilled! "*The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah.*" (Jeremiah 33,14) I wonder if they ever anticipated that the answer to all of their prayers, after so many years, would come in the person of a tiny child born in Bethlehem. Yet, that's exactly what happened! God responded to them in a most wonderful way – through the birth of His only begotten Son. They sent "*their love and faith*" and God linked them to the gift of Love itself!

Again, my friends, the first word we are using to introduce our Advent Season is: "*Hope*." And what better word could we begin with, realizing that Jesus truly is our "*Hope*" in all things, the real answer to our prayers, and the Anchor who holds us firm in our successes and failures, in our joys and sorrows. In "*Hope*" and with "*Hope*" – we begin!

Fr. Tom

Eucharistic Adoration A Prayer For Life!



Wednesday, December 1st

Eucharistic Adoration immediately following the 8AM Mass until 11:10AM

We gather together to lift up our prayers as the United States Supreme Court hears arguments in a historic case over the right of states to protect the unborn. Recently, Archbishop Joseph Naumann, Chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities, reminded us that: "*As Catholics, we are committed to working and praying for the conversion of minds and hearts so all people will respect the dignity of the human person from conception to natural death.*" With that sacred mission in mind, we raise up our prayers that the Holy Spirit will be with and enlighten the members of the Supreme Court as they address this most important issue. Please make every effort to pray for and promote the sanctity of life!

St. Gregory Thaumaturgus Parish

#GIVINGTUESDAY

NOVEMBER 30

VISIT
iGiveCatholic.org

LOCATE
DIOCESE of ERIE on Map
and press red dot

SEARCH
for our parish or school

DONATE
\$20 or more

**Thank You and Remember - "God
Loves A Cheerful Giver!"**
2Cor. 9,7

Choir Rehearsal Thursday, December 2,
2021 at 7:15 PM.



Please return your envelopes
for Christmas Flower Memo-
rials by Monday, December
6th.

The list of memorials will be
included in the Christmas weekend
bulletin as well as online. Thank you!

We are pleased to announce that we will be holding our 9th **Annual Cash Bash** on February 5, 2022! The safety of our friends and neighbors is our top priority so we will be celebrating this year with a virtually broadcasted progressive raffle event on February 5, 2022. As you prepare for the Christmas season, we are pleased to advise that we will be selling advance tickets! Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25.

Tickets will be available for purchase in the back of the church the following weekends: 12/4 and 12/5, 12/11 and 12/12 & 12/18 and 12/19. They will also be available at the parish office and the school office until December 22nd.

Tickets make terrific stocking stuffers! One ticket enters the ticket holder into ALL 16 cash prize drawings that will take place during the evening including the last cash drawing worth \$500!

Tickets are limited so get yours today!
Best wishes for a blessed Christmas to you all!!

Our Knights of Columbus Council is having a sports calendar raffle. There are 2500 calendars available to purchase. The calendar provides the winner with a daily chance to win sports equipment or cash for 6 months! Each calendar has 4 FOUR DIGIT NUMBERS, and the winning number is based on the evening draw of the PA Big Four. The calendar runs for 6 months starting January 1 and ending on June 30th. That means you have a daily chance to win 181 days - making a total of 742 chances to win!

The calendar replaces our Sports Raffle and will help the Knights with their efforts to support their worthy causes throughout the year. You can purchase a calendar for \$40. Calendars can be purchased from any Knight, or at the parish office. Any questions, contact Mark Blackburn 814-881-9442 or George Beckes 814-882-4204. They make great stocking stuffers and presents for this Christmas season!



Football Lottery Winners

Week 10

| | | |
|-----------|----------------|-------------|
| 1st Place | Travis Lindahl | Points: 129 |
| 2nd Place | Trent Beebe | Points: 124 |
| 3rd Place | Kevin Hagerty | Points: 121 |
| Lowest | Rob McCabe | Points: 10 |



Many thanks for the recent gifts to the
St. Gregory Thaumaturgus School
Perpetual Endowment Fund:
In loving memory of

Norine Carll

from

**Michael Dayton; Gary & Lynn Firch;
Jacqueline Carll; Marcia Grafius**

Your gifts; current, planned, or deferred; are greatly appreciated!



November 28– No Faith Formation

Sessions for grades K-8 at St. Gregory School on:

December 5, 12

Class time is 10:20-11:15 AM

Sessions for grades 9 & 10 in the lower-level of the Church on:

December 5, 12

Class time is 10:15-11:30 AM

Confirmation Sessions: **December 5, 12**

Confirmation Class meets in the Parish Family Room (lower level of the Church) from 1:00-2:30 PM

For more information or if you any concerns call Jen Humes at 814-450-6533 or email at jhumes@roadrunner.com

A Note from St. Gregory Wonder Workers

We are offering Italian Wedding Soup for sale as a fundraiser. This money is used to assist our church with special needs.



\$4.00 for a pint; \$8.00 for a Quart
2 quarts for \$15.00

For those wishing to purchase the soup, you can sign up in the back of the church or can call Barb at (814) 504-9088 to place an order.

Pre-order is helpful but not necessary.

Soup pickup and payment will be on December 4th and 5th after every Mass in the back of the church.

Christmas Box Applications

This year, North East Council of Churches is providing a Christmas Box to all who are in need. Applications are in the back and front side tables in the church. If you or someone you know is in need of a box for Christmas dinner, please return the application form to the rectory before December 6th. No applications will be accepted after this deadline.

Monetary donations are accepted to help defray the cost of providing boxes. All checks may be made out to **Community Christmas Boxes** and sent to Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross, C/O Anne Bardol (Treasurer) 51 West Main St., North East, PA 16428. Cash donations may also be put in our donation baskets in the back of the church, in an envelope marked "Christmas Boxes" We thank you in advance for your generosity in helping our brothers and sisters in Christ have a joyous Christmas.



SATURDAY, November 27

5:00 PM– Darlene Newara– Al & Janet Arment

SUNDAY, November 28

7:30 AM–Vincent & Mary Abata–Dave & Ginny Thornton

9:00 AM–Parishioners Living & Deceased

Noon – Leo Zaborowski–Knights of Columbus

MONDAY, November 29

8:00 AM–Ann Coletta– Lariyssa Stolar, Linda Swogger, Dolores Miller

TUESDAY, November 30

8:00 AM– Robert Riefstahl–St. Gregory Marriage Encounter Group

WEDNESDAY, December 1

8:00 AM –Deceased Priests and Religious

THURSDAY, December 2

9:00 AM– Carolyn Anderson–Rexford–St. Gregory Prayer Line Ministry

FRIDAY, December 3

8:00 AM –Jeremy Byrnes– Timothy Byrnes Family

SATURDAY, December 4

5:00 PM– Frank Filutze & Deceased Family Members– Family

SUNDAY, December 5

7:30 AM–Lawrence & Violet Bailey–Daughter-in-Law Tina Bailey

9:00 AM–Parishioners Living & deceased

Noon – Alfonso Restifo–Vincent & Mary Jo Newara



The SANCTUARY LAMP is burning this week in honor of **The Blessed Sacrament**

WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Due to the early transmittal date for the bulletin, the Parish financial data for the week-end of November 20/21 is not available.



First Friday

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for adoration after the 8:00 AM Mass on Friday, December 3rd until noon.



First Saturday, December 4th

Confessions begin at 8:00 AM
Mass at 9:00 AM

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

Hope

Prayer for the First Week of Advent

Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world.

This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important.

We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas.

Amen.

 Dynamic Catholic

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

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

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 Charity Unity
 Fraternity Patriotism
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