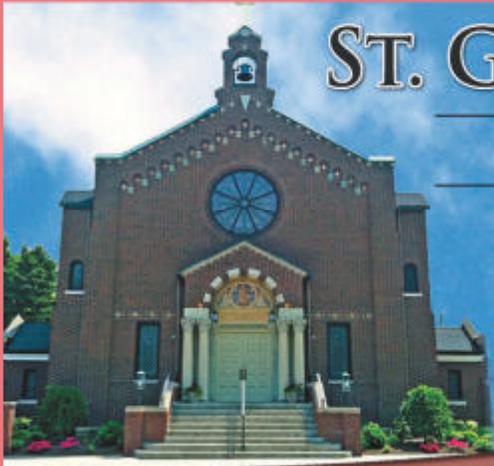


48 SOUTH PEARL STREET • NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428



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

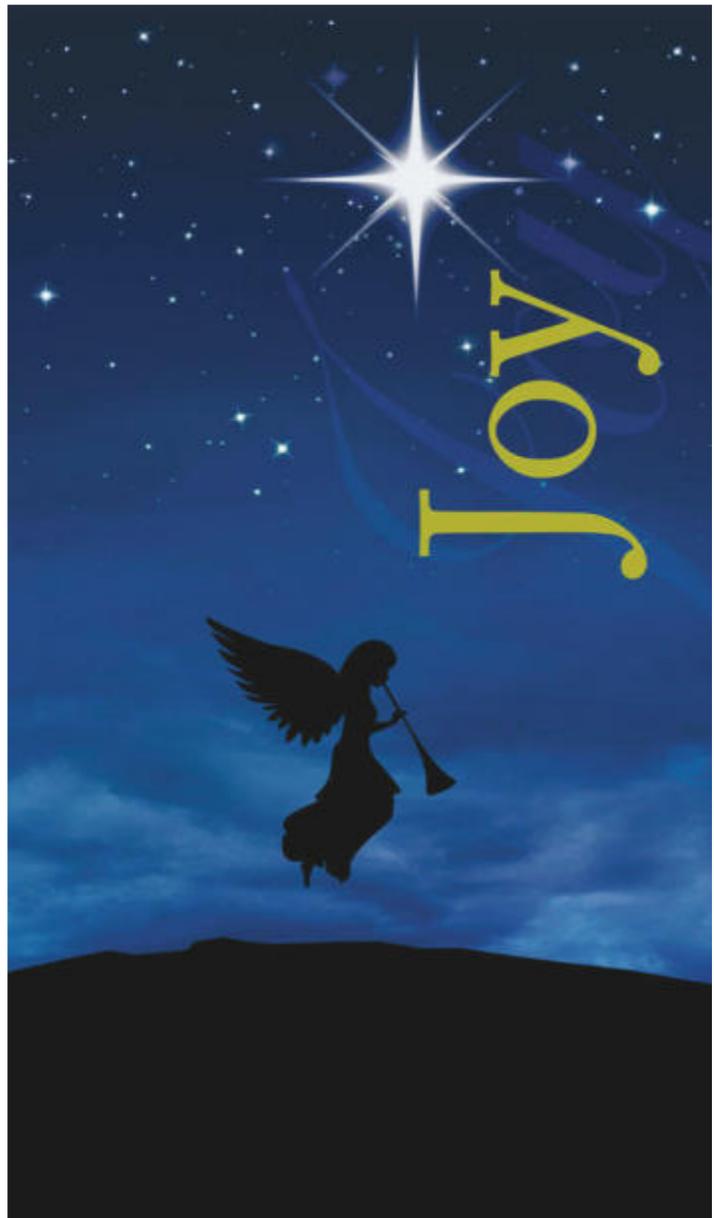
Director of Sacred Music, Corey Spacht

*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!

DECEMBER 12, 2021 THIRD 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.

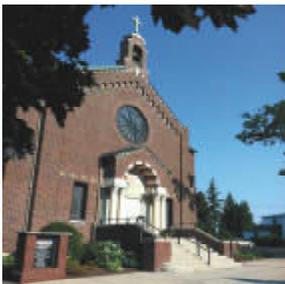
PRAYER LINE

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
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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,

At midnight, November 30th, as we then entered into the Month of December, the #iGiveCatholic program officially concluded. I am pleased to announce that our efforts were successful and that we'll, once again, be able to *"balance the budget,"* at least until we move beyond the holidays into 2022. The results of your generosity are as follows: \$1295.00 was contributed online. \$7650.00 was contributed using the #iGiveCatholic envelopes provided. And – we won a prize! That's correct, friends, St. Gregory Thaumaturgus Parish won a \$500.00 prize from the Catholic Foundation for the final online gift given before the platform closed at midnight. I like to refer to this award as, *"the last one over the finish line!"* No matter what you call it, I am so very grateful to all of you who were able to participate in this effort and to the Catholic Foundation for providing all of the materials, including the envelopes, to help make it successful.

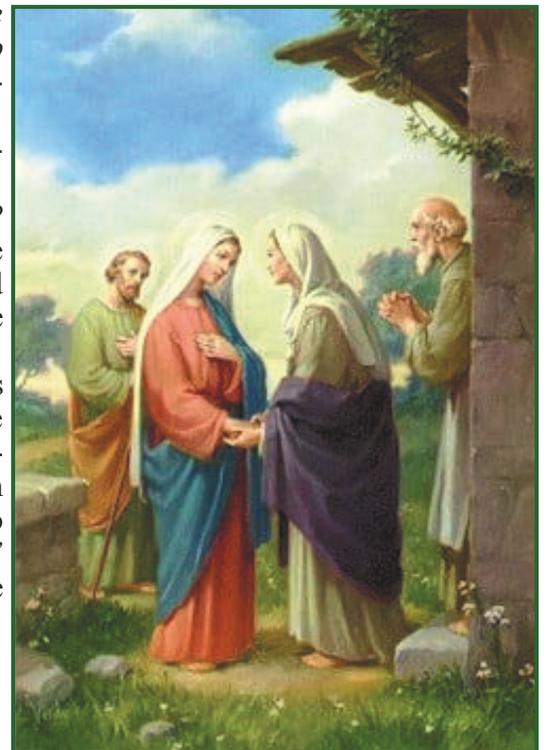
Once I happened to attend a spiritual gathering where the speaker described an occasion where he happened to be, *"in the right place at the right time,"* and secured a job that not only paid well, but also enabled him to use the best of his God-given gifts and talents. His question to us was: *"Do you think of this kind of thing as mere 'coincidence,' or do you look at it, in some way, as 'providence,' the working of the Holy Spirit in your life?"* This Third Week of our Advent Season together centers on the word, *"Joy."* And I have to sit back, smile, and think of our very recent prize from the Catholic Foundation as an expression of *"providence"* rather than mere *"coincidence."* Why? Because the gift was given through the Catholic Foundation, but it was sponsored by the Joy Cone Company! It just made me think of relaxing outside one of our local ice cream vendors, on a warm's summer's eve, enjoying a favorite flavor. Actually, I can't think of any reason not to repeat that same kind of experience, gathered with family or friends around the brightly lit Christmas tree, can you?

Like our word for the Second Week of the Advent Season, *"Peace,"* the word *"Joy"* is deeply rooted in Sacred Scripture. In fact, that message is made abundantly clear to us in the First Reading from the Book of the Prophet Zephaniah. *"Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel! Be glad and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!"* (Zephaniah 3:14) Zephaniah's invitation to *"shout for joy"* strikes a chord with all of us, doesn't it? It stirs our minds and hearts because we realize that we are getting closer and closer to celebrating the source of all joy, the One who is *"Joy,"* the birth of Jesus Christ!

Even before the angels announce the birth of *"Joy"* into the world, it is revealed in an encounter we often refer to, and pray as a mystery of the rosary, called the *"Visitation."* The word refers to the passage from the Gospel of St. Luke where two expectant moms, Mary and Elizabeth, greet each other and share their happiness at seeing one another and the new life they are soon going to bring into the world. It's Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, who shares with us the amazing message that identifies Jesus with *"Joy."* It comes, my friends, in a question she poses to Mary: *"And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy."* (Luke 1,43-44) Even as an infant in the womb, Elizabeth's son, John the Baptist, recognized that *"Joy"* was on its way! That Jesus was to be *"Joy"* that would never fail, diminish or disappear!

That's the *"Joy"* that we place our trust in, isn't it my friends? The often-times fleeting joys of this world are but reminders of the permanent *"Joy"* we find in our Lord and Savior. Yes, we should appreciate those passing joys, they are reminders to all of us of the true and eternal *"Joy"* that is faith in and friendship with Jesus.

Near the end of the Gospel of St. John, we discover the disciples huddled together in the upper room. Some thirty-three years have passed since Jesus' birth, and now they mourn the loss of their dearest and best Friend. How could it be that someone who brought such happiness into the lives of others die such an awful death. It's into that scene that Jesus appears and says to them, *"Peace be with you."* In last weekend's bulletin letter I offered you a reminder of that same scene.



What is the disciples' response to seeing the Risen Jesus! St. John tells us that, "*The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.*" (John 20,20) They "*rejoiced!*" The disciples came to understand that Jesus would be with them always! That no matter what they experienced here on this earth, nothing could diminish or take away their friendship with Jesus! And this, my friends, is what "*Joy*" means to us – that we always have a Friend in Jesus! That even in those most challenging and difficult moments, when we seem so very alone with our problems, we can find a deep-seeded "*Joy*" in our lives, knowing that Jesus is present to us! As revealed in Sacred Scripture, not even death can take away "*Joy*" from our lives! From birth into this world, through and including birth into the next – "*Joy*" is always with us!

I'd simply invite you, my friends, this week in Advent, to thank God for the presence of "*Joy*," the Lord Jesus, in your lives. To seize those moments of happiness that come our way during this festive season as reminders of the permanent "*Joy*" God offers us. And, of course, to be generous in sharing your faith in Jesus as the gift of "*Joy*" with others. The greeting, "*Merry Christmas*" is certainly an awesome reminder of that faith and what you want to share – that our days can be "*merrier*" and "*brighter*" if we embrace the "*Joy*" our amazing God offers us! "*Joy*" to you, my friends, "*Joy*" to you!

Fr. Tom

Christmas 2021 Mass Schedule

Friday, Christmas Eve, December 24th
Mass at 4:00 PM and 9:00 PM
Both Live-Streamed

Saturday, Christmas Day, December 25th
Mass at 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM
10:00 AM Mass Live-Streamed



Saturday, December 25th
Mass at 5:00 PM
For either Christmas or to fulfill the Sunday obligation, but not for both

Sunday, December 26th, Feast of the Holy Family
Mass at 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, and Noon
9:00 AM Mass Live-Streamed



The Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God
Friday, December 31st New Year's Eve
Mass at 5:00 PM

Saturday, January 1st, New Year's Day
Mass at 10:00 AM
Mass Live-Streamed

Choir Rehearsal Thursday,
December 16, 2021 at 7:15 PM.

The annual collection for our Retired Religious will be held this weekend, December 11th and 12th. This collection has significant benefits for the retired Sisters in our diocese, as well as for the over 30,000 retired religious throughout the country. The Retirement Fund for Religious offers financial support for those Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests who worked for years for little or no stipends.

The pandemic has been especially hard on communities of our elderly religious. All of our large convents in Erie have suffered through bouts of COVID with two Sisters dying of the illness. Strict COVID-19 protocols and visiting restrictions, along with additional costs, have taken an emotional toll of loneliness and isolation for our senior religious.

Your generous gift provides vital support for their ongoing health care, helping them to age with dignity, in safety and comfort.



The Eucharistic Rosary will be prayed on Monday, December 13th, at 11:00 AM in the Our Mother of Perpetual Help Chapel in the parish office complex. All are welcome.

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: 12/11 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!!

We Hope You Enjoyed Your Soup!

Thank you for supporting our efforts as we do our best to help provide for the needs of our Parish Family.
The Wonder-Workers



BAKE SALE

The Wonder-Workers will hold their Holiday Bake Sale the weekend of December 18th & 19th after all the Masses.

Plan to pick up some delicious treats for the holiday!



Wonder-Workers Lottery Tree Raffle

The Wonder-Workers will be selling chances for a Lottery Tree on the weekends of December 11, 12 and 18, 19.

Winning ticket will be drawn after the Noon Mass on December 19th.

Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00



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!

**Holiday Light Spectacular
(Drive Thru " Pizza
with Santa")**



Friday December 17th from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

This is a fundraiser for the Level 4 students trip to Washington, DC and is being sponsored by the 7th and 8th grade students and parents.

The cost for the event is \$25.00 per car and includes: drive through Christmas light show and displays, a take and bake pizza kit from International Bakery, 1/2 dozen cookies with "fixin's" to decorate and a bag of Christmas crafts to make.

Additional pizza kits will be available for purchase that evening at \$10.00 each.



December 13th is the feast day of **St. Lucy**, Patron Saint of the Blind. St. Lucy was a virgin martyr during the earliest centuries of Christianity under its worst persecution at the hands of the Roman Empire, therefore making her one of the most glorious saints in heaven.

She is of such renown that she is one of the saints mentioned by name in the

Roman Canon of the Mass, one of only seven female saints listed.

Lucia means "light," a fitting name for a young woman who was known to visibly glow and radiate in her love for her spouse, Jesus Christ.

Falling during the Advent season -and thus a long, dark winter-there are many beautiful traditions associating this saint with the meaning of her name, the story of her life, and her glorious position in heaven. Her feast day is celebrated with candles, torches, and even bonfires.



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

December 12

Class time is 10:20-11:15 AM

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

December 12

Class time is 10:15-11:30 AM

December 19th: All grades will zoom from 10:20-11:30 AM for class and the Advent Service. Please check email for the invite link.

No class on December 26th, or January 3rd

Confirmation Sessions:

December 12, January 16, 23

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

Let Go

A YOUNG ADULT SILENT RETREAT

Established for those 19 to 35 years old to bring God, young people, and their desires together.

Organized by the Diocese of Erie
January 3-7, 2022

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2067 Evergreen Rd, Villa Maria, PA 16155

Cost \$150

Email jzacyk@eriercd.org for more information

Register at: www.eriercd.org/youth

MASS Intentions

SATURDAY, December 11

5:00 PM– Ruth Ann Keeley– Dan & Ann Keeley

SUNDAY, December 12

7:30 AM-Casey & Lucy Laskowski-Dave & Ginny Thornton

9:00 AM-Parishioners Living & Deceased

Noon – Carolyn Anderson-Rexford-Marcia Carl Grafius

MONDAY, December 13

8:00 AM-Anne Sluga– Sluga Family

TUESDAY, December 14

8:00 AM– Ann Lynett-Steve & Pattie Stempka

WEDNESDAY, December 15,

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

THURSDAY, December 16

12:10 PM– Michael Baker-Ron Morris Family

FRIDAY, December 17

8:00 AM –Frank Filutze– Bob O’Leary

SATURDAY, December 18

5:00 PM– George Moylan, Jr.– Dan Coletta Family

SUNDAY, December 19

7:30 AM-Captain Patrick Doyle, Jr.-SSG. Joseph C. Gullo, III

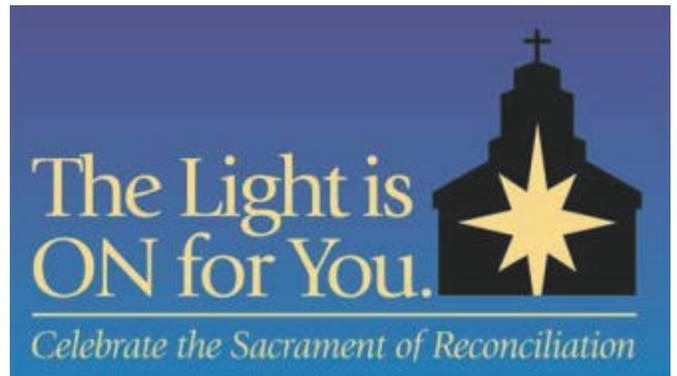
9:00 AM-Parishioners Living & deceased

Noon – Robert Riefstahl-Lori Helffrich

WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION

December 4/5, 2021

Envelopes Mailed.....	596
Regular Envelopes Used	116
Amount in Adult's Envelopes.....	\$5,945.00
Loose.....	\$384.00
Building Maintenance.....	\$2,667.00
Electronic Giving	\$338.30
Christmas Flowers	\$855.00
TOTAL	\$10,189.30
Fiscal year-to-date offertory collection.....	\$173,276.64
Fiscal year-to-date offertory budget.....	\$176,923.13



Our Lady of Mercy

St. James

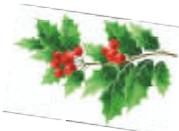
St. Gregory Thaumaturgus

**Wednesday, December 15, 2021
4:30 - 6:30 PM**

Please remember our deceased in your prayers...

**Dorothy Girts and
William “Bill” Witkowski**

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord



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



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

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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