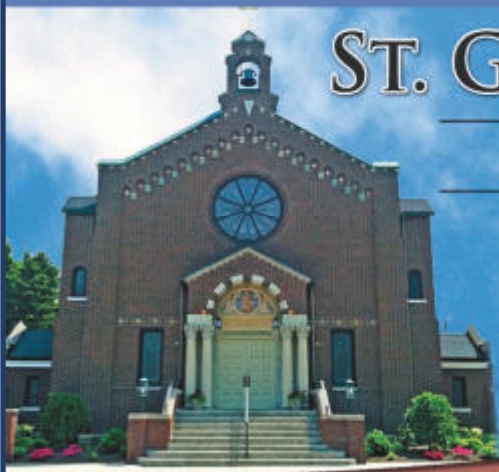


48 SOUTH PEARL STREET • NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428

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 19, 2021 FOURTH 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
gregory1@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,

One of my favorite stories, relative to this festive season, comes to us from the renowned author, Willa Cather. The story is called, *"The Burglar's Christmas,"* and was originally published in 1896 under the pseudonym of Elizabeth L. Seymour. It centers on a young man named William who had moved away from his family to Chicago. Will wanted to be "free," independent, out on his own in the world. Well, friends, Will quickly discovered the hard reality of that experience. And, eventually, he finds himself alone with no money, no food, and no place to stay. In that sad state, he thinks back to his childhood, how he indulged in "gingerbread and frosted cakes," "the splendid birthday parties his mother used to give him," and how he would "eat and eat and then go to bed and dream of Santa Claus." Life was so good back then, with people who loved and cared for him!

As Christmas Eve approaches, Will becomes really desperate! He's freezing out in the cold, he's literally starving, and no one is making any effort to help him. So, he decides to do the one thing he has never done before – he's going to steal. Not feeling like he has any other option, he picks out a target and breaks into the house. Now, friends, here is the ironic twist: he breaks into his own parents' home! That's right, they have moved to Chicago and catch their own son burglarizing their home. Can you even begin to imagine that awkward moment?! What would you say? What would you do?

As Will prepares to make a hasty departure, his parents assure him, "Stay – we'll make things right." With that, Will looks at his mom with a hesitant, pained and embarrassed expression on his face and asks: "I wonder if you know how much you pardon?" Looking back at her son with great affection she says: "O my poor boy, much or little, what does it matter? Have you wandered so far and paid such a bitter price for knowledge and not yet learned that love has nothing to do with pardon or forgiveness, that it only loves, and loves, and loves?"

During our journey together through Advent, my friends, we have considered the themes of "Hope," "Peace," and "Joy." Today, on this Fourth Sunday of Advent, you can clearly see, from the banner displayed in church, that the prevailing theme is "Love." It's simply the perfect message as we anticipate the celebration of Christmas and "Love" being born into the world. Isn't that what God reveals to us, that His only begotten Son is a "Love-Gift" to and for all of us? Consider, please, one of the most well known and cherished verses from Sacred Scripture. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life." (John 3,16) Yes, God is like that generous parent whose benevolence knows no bounds! Having given us the gift of life, the magnificent creation that surrounds us, the good company of family and friends – God can't wait to give us even more! He offers us the gift of Himself – "Love" born into the world. "Love" to be with us, and to bless us, and to guide us from this world to the next!

As we look forward to Christmas, only a few days away, I can only pray that you are prepared to welcome "Love" into your hearts, into your lives. When we do, then we are eager, we actually feel compelled, to share that great gift with others. No, most of the gifts that "Love" provides cannot be wrapped and placed under the tree, but they are true reflections of our understanding and sharing in the mystery of the Incarnation – Jesus born in us! The gifts that "Love" supplies include a warm welcome to all, forgiveness, a new beginning, gracious words of support and encouragement, a warm smile, a true respect that comes from accepting the fact that we are all the sons and daughters of an amazing God who shows no partiality. That understanding of Christmas provides the potential for a wonderful "gift-exchange," doesn't it? God gives to us – we give to others!

Isn't that what Jesus really asks of us, as we approach Christmas, celebrate the Christmas Season, enter the New Year 2022, and always? We take our cue from yet another passage from the Gospel of St. John. "I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13,34-35) God's Word reveals to us a truly wonderful formula for life, doesn't it? Accept God as "Love," embrace "Love," and do your best to share that awesome Gift each and every day. Do that, and you cannot fail in your discipleship!

I join together with the entire parish staff, my friends, in wishing you a most happy and blessed Christmas on the way! And, I leave you with the reminder that comes to us from St. Paul who finally came to realize the importance of "Love" in his own life: "Love never fails!" (1Corinthians 13,8)



Fr. Tom

Christmas 2021 Mass Schedule

**Friday, Christmas Eve, December 24th
Mass at 4:00 PM and 9:00 PM in Church
and both Live-Streamed**

**Saturday, Christmas Day, December 25th
Mass at 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM in Church
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 in Church
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 in Church**

**Saturday, January 1st, New Year's Day
Mass at 10:00 AM in Church & Live Streamed**



**Saturday, January 1st
Mass at 5:00 PM in Church**

**Sunday, January 2nd, Feast of the Epiphany
Mass at 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, and Noon in Church
9:00 AM Mass Live-Streamed**

Choir Rehearsal Thursday,
December 23, 2021 at 7:15 PM.

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 this weekend. 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!!



Football Lottery Winners

Week 12

1st Place	Alex Aulenbacher	Points: 110
2nd Place	Scott Buck	Points: 109
3rd Place Tie	Bill Near/ Evan Schiedel	Points: 108
Lowest Tie	Jamie Finotti/Joyce Walzer	Points: 17

Week 13

1st Place	Chuck Hickernell	Points: 119
2nd Place	Mike Ribbe	Points: 112
3rd Place Tie	Zack Potter/ Sandy Holmes/Mary Lou Cawley/ Barry Weldon	Points: 110
Lowest Tie	Lori Helffrich/ Kathy Malesiewski	Points: 23

BAKE SALE

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

Get some delicious treats for the holiday!



Wonder-Workers Lottery Tree and Lottery Wreath Raffle

The Wonder-Workers will be selling chances for a Lottery Tree and a Lottery Wreath this weekend, December 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!



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!



**William Aulenbacher, Sr.
Council 4262 Knights of Columbus
Knight of the Year**



**Charles and Rhonda Moore
Council 4262 Knights of Columbus
Family of the Year**

**Congratulations and thanks to all our
Knights for their generosity and service!**

Merry Christmas!



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

**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 2nd**

Classes resume January 9, 2022

**Faith Formation Community Service
Project coming in the New Year.**

Confirmation Sessions:

January 16, 23

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

Let Go

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Register at: www.eriercd.org/youth

MASS Intentions

SATURDAY, December 18

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

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

MONDAY, December 20

8:00 AM-Captain Patrick Doyle, Jr.- Aunt Maureen & Uncle Harry Gratto

TUESDAY, December 21

8:00 AM- Rose Blose-Joe & Tamie Lander

WEDNESDAY, December 22

8:00 AM -Butch Perino- Bob O'Leary

THURSDAY, December 23

12:10 PM- Holy Souls in Purgatory

FRIDAY, December 24, Christmas Eve

4:00 PM -Ann Coletta- Charles M. Ollinger

9:00 PM -Sam Rizzo, Sr., Sadie Rizzo-Whitaker & Ava Malesiewski- Family

SATURDAY, December 25, Christmas

8:00 AM- Robert Kowalewski- Family

10:00 AM-Carmela M. Tramantana- Family

*5:00 PM-Parishioners Living and Deceased

*For either Christmas or to fulfill the Sunday obligation, but not for both

SUNDAY, December 26

7:30 AM-Paul Hitchcock-The Carll Family


9:00 AM-Jenne Mobilia-Millie DiOrenzo

Noon - Robert Riefstahl-Sam & Ann Filutze

There will be no confessions heard on Saturday, December 25th.

WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION
December 11/12, 2021

Envelopes Mailed.....	596
Regular Envelopes Used	96
Amount in Adult's Envelopes.....	\$7,193.00
Loose.....	\$292.00
Building Maintenance.....	\$425.00
Electronic Giving	\$538.30
Christmas Flowers	\$865.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$993.00
TOTAL	\$10,306.30
Fiscal year-to-date offertory collection.....	\$183,582.94
Fiscal year-to-date offertory budget.....	\$184,615.44




The Parish Office will be closed Friday, December 24th and Monday, December 27th.

Please remember our deceased in your prayers...

Virginia Gullo; Sherry Davis, Louis Nicolia and Mary Phelps

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord



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

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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