

ST. GREGORY THE GREAT PARISH

200 ST. GREGORY COURT, WILLIAMSVILLE, NY 14221 | 716.688.5678 | BULLETIN@STGREGS.ORG

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2021

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." - Lk 21:27-28

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

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PER THE DIOCESE AS OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2021* FACE COVERINGS

Per the Diocese of Buffalo Face coverings are now mandated for all participants in the liturgy, especially when in close proximity to those of other households (for entry, exit, and when receiving Holy Communion). When seated, participants may "relax their mask" if they feel comfortable to do so. If you wish to sing, you must wear a face covering.

With the positivity rate in Erie County increasing and out of respect for everyone in our faith community, St. Gregory the Great Parish strongly encourages everyone to wear a face covering while attending any event or service on our property. We thank you for your cooperation.

**Bulletin print date 11/18/2021*

PARISH OFFICE

200 St. Gregory Court; 688-5678 Fax: 688-2315

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:30 am - 4:00 pm; SATURDAY AND SUNDAY - Closed

PASTOR

Fr. Leon J. Biernat; lbiernat@stgregs.org

PAROCHIAL VICARS

Msgr. Thomas F. Maloney; FatherThomas@stgregs.org

Fr. Moses O. Ikuelogbon; FrMoses@stgregs.org

Fr. Daniel R. Ulmer; FrDan@stgregs.org

PERMANENT DEACONS

Deacon Michael G. Bochiechio

Deacon Gregory Gaulin

Deacon Paul Walter

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Sr. Shawn Czyzycki; sczyzycki@stgregs.org, ext. 335

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Brian Ruh; bruh@stgregs.org, ext. 313

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DIRECTOR OF PARISH OPERATIONS

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Marisa Piazza; mpiazza@stgregs.org, ext. 303

DIRECTOR OF LAY AND LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Michael Henseler; mhenseler@stgregs.org

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Adam Jarosz; ajarosz@stgregs.org, ext. 316

PARISH NURSE

Lee Zack; lzack@stgregs.org, ext. 306

TRUSTEES: Christie Thein, Thomas Vacanti

SCHOOL OFFICE

250 St. Gregory Court 688-5323 Fax: 688-6629

PRINCIPAL

Julie Gajewski; jgajewski@stgregsschool.org, ext. 350

SCHOOL BOARD - schoolboard@stgregsschool.org

Fr. Leon J. Biernat, Chairman

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

250 St. Gregory Court 688-5760 Fax: 639-8251

DIRECTOR

Joan M. Rischmiller; jrischmiller@stgregs.org, ext. 358

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKDAYS: (Monday-Friday) 7:00, 8:00 and 12:00 noon; (Saturday) 8:00 am only.

SATURDAY: 4:00 pm and 5:30 pm

SUNDAY: 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 am; 12:30 pm

HOLY DAYS: As listed in the Bulletin.

For those who are unable to join us, daily Masses can be viewed on our website via livestream, weekend Masses via YouTube and livestream.

CATHOLIC STORE HOURS (276-6920): Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 am-2:00 pm; Wednesday, 5:30-7:30 pm; Saturday 8:30 am-12:00 pm; Sunday 9:00 am-2:00 pm. *Closed Monday.*

CAFÉ HOURS (276-6915): Tuesday-Friday, 7:30 am-2:00 pm; Wednesday 5:30 -7:30; Saturday 8:30 am-12:00 pm; Sunday 9:00 am-2:00 pm. *Closed Monday.*

ADORATION CHAPEL: The chapel is open 24 hours.

CONFESSIONS: First Friday of the month from 8:45 to 9:30 am; Saturdays from 2:30 to 3:45 pm in the Church.

Christmas Gift Collection 2021

Christmas Gift Tags are usually hung on a Christmas Tree in the front vestibule in November for our annual Gift Collection, but this year we have to adapt to Covid-19 protocols. Instead of taking tags from the tree, please **take a gift tag (s) from the tables in front of the tree.**

We ask you to open your hearts and to take a gift tag from the tables in the vestibule, and return the gift tag with a gift, check or gift card. Each tag will indicate what was requested by the agency based on their needs.

*Of His Fullness we have all had a share ...
Love following upon love.* John 1:14,16



Some agencies still prefer gifts, but most are requesting gift cards. Each tag will indicate what was requested by the agency.



Wrapped Gifts will be collected in the Gathering Rooms on December 12, by 12:45 pm.



Gift Cards: Please purchase any amount from Target, TOPS, Walmart, Wegmans or Aldi's. Please mark the amount of the gift card or attach the gift receipt using the envelope attached to the gift tag. Drop-off is in the Gathering Rooms, on Saturday, December 11, after Masses, or on Sunday, December 12, by 12:45 pm.



Check Donation: Please make checks payable to St. Gregory the Great Parish. We will calculate the totals collected for each agency and write one check for them. Please return your donation in the envelope attached to the gift tags, and drop off in the collection baskets on December 5 and 6 Masses.

Thank you for your generosity!

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION



- **FFF Office Hours:** Mon - Fri, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. The FFF Office will be closed November 24-27 for Thanksgiving.
- **First Friday Club on December 3 is a Christmas Celebration** from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm in the Gathering Rooms. Grades 5-8 are

invited for a fun-filled night— so bring your friends and wear your festive **RED** and **GREEN**!

- There are **No Classes** on Saturday, November 27.
- **December Generations of Faith Dates** are:
 - **GOF Session C:** December 2, 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm
 - **GOF Session A :** December 5, 10:45 am – 11:45 am



FEAST OF ST. LUCY MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

The tradition of planting wheat on St. Lucy's Day comes from Hungary, Croatia, and other European nations. The wheat will be several inches high by Christmas and is a reminder of the new life born in Bethlehem.

The Family Faith Formation Disciple Camp and High School students packaged wheat at our monthly First Friday Service Club. The packets of wheat will be available in the church vestibule the weekend of December 4 – 5.

MESSGE FROM OUR PASTOR. . .

My Dear Parish Family,

Today we begin a new Church year and we begin it, as always, with the season of Advent. Advent is a season filled with hope. In the Old Testament, we hear over and over again about the hope of the promised Messiah. In Advent, we are reminded of the hope of Israel to be set free. We will once again witness the hope and preparation for the coming of Christ in the Scriptures during this season.

Every year I am struck by the number of Christmas trees that people set up and have decorated and lit in their homes right after Halloween. Now it seems we go immediately from Halloween to Christmas. It is almost like Advent does not exist as a season. Many radio stations began playing “all Christmas music” the day after Halloween. Even the “Black Friday” sales are starting earlier and earlier.

I suppose we all long for the joy of Christmas as we meet the challenges facing us, and with the recent surge again of Covid among those challenges.

This Advent, we need the “light” and not only the lights of the trees and decorations, but the Light of Christ. This Advent, we do need to “sing,” and not only the songs of Christmas, but also the joyful song in our hearts that only a Disciple of Christ can sing. This Advent try to take the challenges of Covid, the debates over vaccinations, the concerns over employment and even the issues over the “supply chain” and the effects each has had in the many facets of our daily lives and more. The concerns of your personal life, and join them to the challenges faced by the Israelite people eagerly waiting freedom which would come only from the Birth of the Messiah. This Advent allow true hope to grow and be firmly rooted and fertilized in your own mind, heart and soul; true hope and freedom which is rooted only in God.

This weekend’s first reading from the prophet Jeremiah reminds us of hope. God promises a “righteous branch” out of the line of King David. Of course, Jesus is that righteous branch. St. Paul in the second reading reminds the Thessalonians to live like Jesus so they ultimately will be saved. Of course, we are reminded of the same every Advent. The Gospel of Luke today reminds us that Judgement Day will ultimately come and that we are not to be filled with fear. Advent reminds us not to live in sin or in selfishness, but to strive for holiness and a blameless life.

We see Advent as a preparation for Christmas. I suppose in the secular celebration of time, we see all of the time from Halloween until Christmas Day as “Christmas time” – at least in the decorations, music and shopping. In the secular celebrations Advent does not exist. However, for people of faith, Advent does exist and is really like Lent in many ways. This season of Advent is an invitation to recognize the battle between good and evil. We are given the images of light and darkness and life and death. The word “advent” comes from the Latin word “adventus.” Adventus means “the coming” or “the arrival.” Having that in mind, on one hand we are awaiting the celebration of the “anniversary” of the physical birth of Jesus Christ, but on the other hand we are really waiting for our call of eternal salvation. Christmas is the celebration of the moment that God became Man in Jesus Christ. Ultimately, Advent is to remind us of the next coming of Jesus Christ, in judgement of the living and the dead. Advent, amid the beauty of lights and decorations, calls us to the sober reality of our own call to one day stand before the Lord. This is a season, not of fear, but a season of hope to prepare ourselves for what God has promised by living morally right and just.

Pope Benedict XVI wrote an encyclical entitled “Spe Salvi” or, in English, “On Christian Hope” in 2007. I have quoted it often. One of the basic points that Pope Benedict makes is that true hope resides only in God. He goes through a lengthy list of other places we may place hope; for example, in the stock market, medical advances, technology, political ideology, and more, but he says all these will always disappoint because they are human. True hope resides only in God. How do we attain this hope? Pope Benedict goes on

(continued on page 5)



FAMILY-TO-FAMILY CHRISTMAS

Family-to-Family Christmas is a longstanding parish project of holiday giving that for years has sponsored greater than 100 needy families each year, from various organizations in our community. Our children help to keep **our** spirit of Christmas alive, so hopefully their participation in giving to a needy child or family will, in turn, make this a meaningful project for your family. In lieu of physical gift donations, we are simply requesting either monetary donations or the purchase of small denomination gift cards that we can equally allocate and divide up between the various families according to size.

Please mail the form below, call, text, or send a request via email to a committee member listed below by **Monday, November 29**. You will be given further directions as to how to proceed. This year's deadline for submission is December 3. **Your support is greatly appreciated! May God continue to bless you and keep you safe and healthy!**

Karyn McMahon (861-1107) kmcmahon1224@gmail.com

Michelle Burns (380-5423) micburns99@aol.com

Meegan Stamm (867-4431) meegstamm@msn.com

If sending check or gift card(s) by mail, please detach lower section and mail to: Karyn McMahon, 8260 Lisa Lane, East Amherst, NY 14051



2021 CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Please consider a donation to help purchase flowers to decorate the Church for Christmas. Memorials will be acknowledged in the Bulletin.

PLEASE PRINT:

Donor's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Memorial Donation in Memory of:

Name: _____

(Please print)

Amount: _____ Check #: _____

Return order form, with checks payable to St. Gregory's, to the Parish Office, or drop in the collection basket.

FAMILY-TO-FAMILY CHRISTMAS 2021

NAME _____

PHONE (CELL/HOME) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

_____ We will donate Tops/Target/Walmart gift cards (small dollar denominations are preferred to a single large dollar amount in order for equitable distribution).

_____ We will make a monetary donation by check payable to St. Gregory the Great/Family-to-Family Christmas. Please mail to Karyn McMahon at the address above, or drop off at the Parish Office: ATTN-Michelle Burns/Family-to-Family Christmas.

Scan the QR code to the right to learn more about the Family-to-Family Christmas.



**You will be given a confirmation of receipt for your record keeping.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING

Ann Marie Zon's Nicaraguan Mission provides a wonderful way to support the needy while giving Christmas gifts to your family/friends. For a \$100 donation you can give a pregnant cow to a needy family. The cow's first female calf will be given to another needy family and will serve the family for seven years, providing milk/cheese and calves. For a \$50 donation you can give a pig which will birth 6-12 piglets twice a year. Or you can send a child to school for a full year...\$30 supports an elementary student, \$50 a middle schooler, \$100 a high schooler and \$600 will send a student to college for a year. Gift Cards will be provided for your recipient. Send your check made out to the Nicaraguan Mission (tax deductible charity) to NICARAGUAN MISSION, 100 Sundown Trail, Williamsville, NY 14221. For further information please call Joe Testa at 688-8357.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED. . .

to tell us that there are three schools to learn and develop this hope. They are the school of prayer; the school of action (or service) and the school of suffering. As we daily genuinely pray and as we serve the needs of others and willingly embrace suffering and join it to the suffering of Christ and His Cross we will grow in hope.

This Advent, amid the lights and decorations and music, focus on the foundation of hope in order to truly experience the Joy of the fullness of Hope: Jesus Christ our Savior, born on Christmas Day.

May God bless you, our Mother Mary watch over you, and St. Joseph and St. Gregory the Great intercede for you, always.



ADVENT CANDLE PRAYER WEEK ONE

(This prayer can be offered each night before dinner)

During the first week of Advent, the father or mother of the family blesses the wreath, praying: "Lord God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of her Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin. Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath; may their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, forever and ever." [One of the children lights one purple candle.]

The family then ends by signing themselves with the Sign of the Cross and says: "May the light of Christ lead us to the joy of His kingdom, now and forever. Amen"

SVDP FOOD DRIVE

THANK YOU

The Society of St Vincent dePaul – St Gregory the Great Conference thanks the SGG parish members and Family Faith Formation families for their generous outpouring of food and monetary donations during the recent Fall Harvest Food Drive. Our pantry on St. Gregory Court has been re-stocked and over 250 bags of food were taken to SVDP pantries at St. Timothy's and St. Francis of Assisi parishes in Tonawanda. SGG Vincentians will be using your donations to feed families we serve in the City of Buffalo and Amherst this Thanksgiving and Christmas Season. For information on SVDP contact Tim Spellman or Tom Vacanti.



MOVE TOWARD THE LIGHT

This Advent, discover and choose the things that draw you to the light! Get inspiring daily video reflections sent straight to your email inbox—for FREE. Taken from Matthew Kelly's life-changing new book, *Life Is Messy*, each reflection will help you infuse your life with prayer, reading, authentic love of self, genuine friendship, beautiful kindness and so much more! And when Christmas arrives, you'll be ready to share the light you've gathered along the way!

It's FREE and easy to sign up (see below).

- ⇒ Google, "<https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent.html>"
- ⇒ This takes you to a page with a video message from Matthew Kelly (dressed in a blue sweater)
- ⇒ Scroll down and click on the yellow/tan "Sign Me Up!" box
- ⇒ Then proceed to fill in your name and email address. Viola!

THE CIRCLE OF LIFE

Q: What is an Advent Wreath?

A: The Advent Wreath is part of our long-standing Catholic tradition. Its origins are uncertain but evidence of using wreaths with candles in the dark days of winter can be traced back to pre-Christian Germanic peoples. Traditionally, Advent Wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple and one is rose, but white candles can also be used.

The purple candles, in particular, symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead. If you would like to introduce this tradition to your family this year you can purchase a variety of wreaths and candles at our St. Greg's Catholic Store.



This weekend marks the beginning of Advent – a time of reflection, prayer and great anticipation for Jesus, the Light of the World, to arrive. **During this special time, you can act as a light and a beacon of HOPE for those in need. This Advent, consider a donation drive to help our neighbors in Western New York.** Good items for consideration are non-perishable and unexpired food items, toiletries, diapers, menstrual products, paper towels and cleaning supplies. Food items can be dropped off at any of Catholic Charities 9 food pantries during regular pantry hours, which can be found at www.ccwny.org. All other items can be dropped off by appointment at Ladies of Charities, 1122 Broadway, Buffalo; call 716-895-4001 to schedule an appointment. If someone you know needs help, go to www.ccwny.org or call our Helpline at 716-218-1419.



**St. Gregory
the Great
School**

**PROVIDING A PREMIER
EDUCATION SINCE 1960**



At St. Gregory the Great, our goal is to develop students who learn, live and lead as Disciples of Christ. We focus on prayer, positive relationships and a rigorous academic curriculum while instituting a COVID safe learning environment.

Offering Preschool 3 & 4,
Early Kindergarten and K - 8 academic programs



**Our Open House is Sunday, January 30, 2022
10:30-12:30 pm**

By appt. only, register today using the QR Code



@stgregsthegreat

716.688.5323
250 St. Gregory Court
Williamsville, NY 14221
information@stgregsschool.org



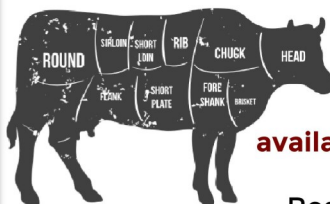
Save the Date

**MEAT
RAFFLE**

Proceeds benefit St. Gregory the Great School HSA

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2022

**6 PM DOORS OPEN | 7 PM FIRST SPIN
ST. GREGORY THE GREAT
MINISTRY CENTER**



**STAY TUNED
TICKETS**

**available after Thanksgiving
Must be 21.
Reserved tables available.**



PLEASE JOIN US!

The 32nd Annual National Night of Prayer for Life will take place on **Wednesday, December 8, beginning after the 7:00 pm Mass and continuing until 11:00 pm. The final hour of prayer from 11:00 pm until Midnight will be in the Adoration Chapel.** The prayers will begin with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with the Rosary and Divine Mercy chaplet recited on the hour. Members of surrounding parishes also will be joining us.

This event honors the Feasts of the Immaculate Conception (December 8) and the Apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego (December 9). Everyone is invited to participate, as we ask Our Blessed Mother, under her title Our Lady of Guadalupe, to protect ALL Life, especially our unborn brothers and sisters, defend the Church and its faithful, restore religious freedom, and protect the family. May we make reparation for all the lives lost in this nation to abortion and pray that parents may be conscious of their calling as they share in God's creative power. We also pray that those who have acted against human life experience forgiveness.

Let us bow down in UNISON across the nation before the Blessed Sacrament in Adoration and Reparation for the sins against the lives of our innocent unborn and helpless ones

You may come for any part or for all four hours or join us via the web at www.stgregs.org.

"If my people... humble themselves and pray, and seek my presence and turn from their evil ways, I will hear them from heaven and pardon their sins and REVIVE THEIR LAND" —2 Chronicles 7:12

ADORATION CHAPEL DAILY CLOSURE

The Chapel will be closed every day from 4:00 pm to 4:20 pm to allow for proper sanitation and cleaning. We appreciate your understanding and flexibility as we continue to create a clean environment for our faith community to safely adore and pray.

What's happening at St. Greg's Youth & Young Adult Ministry?

Our EDGE Core Team took a night off at the movie theatre. Our Core Team is essential to the success of our ministry. Thank you Core Team!



Our Life Teen nights have been covering mental health and bringing peace to our minds. One of our High Schoolers did an amazing job giving the talk!

Our very own Pastor, Father Leon, joined Amped to discuss ghosts. Amped is our Young Adult community.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS RAFFLE

We have more raffle booklets available in the Parish Office. As a reminder, each ticket is \$2 and winners do not need to be present to win. If you are filling your booklet out at home, please reference:

- Solicitor: St. Greg's
- Council #: 14687

Grand Prize: \$25,000

2nd Prize: \$10,000

3rd Prize: \$5,000

Plus 10 \$1,000 prizes

DRAWING: DECEMBER 4, 2021

BEST OF LUCK TO ALL!

REDISCOVER YOUR MARRIAGE

Retrouvaille, a program for struggling couples, simply means 'rediscovery'. It's a couple-to-couple ministry in the Diocese of Buffalo. The program offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. For more info call (716) 474-9371 or visit

www.HelpOurMarriage.org. All calls are confidential and pre-registration is required. We are taking reservations now for the next local weekend in February, 2022.



New Organ Sponsorship

Why do we need a new organ?

⇒ Essentially our current organ is in need of many replacement parts. One of the four amplifiers needs to be replaced and is currently func-

tioning on a splitter to another amplifier since August 2020. In my opinion, we are fortunate we have gone this long without another failed amplifier.

- ⇒ The pedal board needs new pads as many of them are worn out and clunking. Pedal contacts are also worn out.
- ⇒ The midi has not worked in years, limiting the variety sounds available.
- ⇒ The most significant issue with our current organ is the deteriorating speakers, the workhorse of the instrument. Specifically, there are components in the speakers made of paper which is disintegrating.
- ⇒ The new organ speakers will not have paper in the speakers, but a much longer lasting composite material.

Where will the speakers be? Most of the speakers are located in the balcony behind the screens, with some in the choir area near the console and in the balcony itself. All of the speakers will be replaced.

Where will the console be placed? The console will be placed in the music area where the current console is situated and it will have a new platform.

What organ are we purchasing? We are purchasing an Allen organ, model RL-66, designed by Rudy Lucente, a Catholic musician who is mindful of the Catholic liturgy. It is a 66-stop, three manual organ with draw knob stops instead of tabs like our current organ. The new APEX technology developed by Allen Organ Company duplicates the sound from pipe organs already in use around the world.

How much does it cost? Allen Organ Company is offering us \$5,000 for the trade in of our current organ towards the purchase of a new organ. After trade in value for our current organ, the new organ will cost \$191,946.

Please do not hesitate to contact Nancy Erdman with any other questions.

Use your phone's camera to scan the QR code to learn more about sponsorship opportunities and become a donor today!



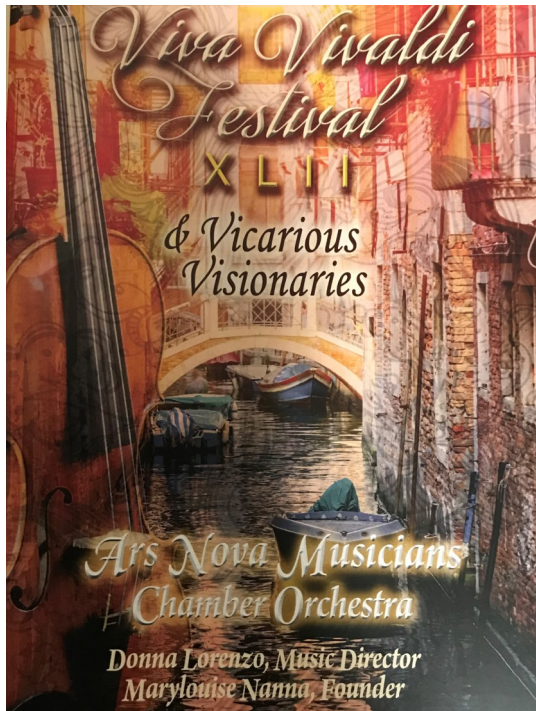
ADVENT NIGHT OF RECOLLECTION SAVE THE DATE

We warmly welcome you to join us for our Advent Night of Recollection entitled "Divine Revelation Communication of God's Love" Thursday, December 9, in the Church. The Bible is God's "love letter" to us, telling us not only that He loves us, but showing us what He has done to demonstrate His love. Fr. Justin Steeg, one of the newly ordained priests of the diocese, will be our special guest. Ladies of the Lord will offer the Rosary at 6:30 pm as people enter and settle in. Fr. Justin will begin at 7:00 pm. Come enjoy uplifting music, an inspiring message from Fr. Justin and Eucharistic Adoration to prepare ourselves for the real reason of the Christmas Season.

A VOCATION VIEW

As we wait for Christ to return, we know that one day we will "see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." When He does, will you be able to say, *Jesus I faithfully answered Your call?* What is Jesus asking of you? If it's a Church vocation, contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847-5535 or visit buffalovocations.org.

*Join us Sunday, December 5, at 6:30 pm
in the Church for a concert with the Ars
Nova Musicians Chamber Orchestra.
Tickets available for purchase at the
door. Adult \$15, under 18 \$5. Cash or
Check.*



**Saturday
December 11,
2021**

**Advent Lessons
And Carols**

St. Gregory the Great

200 St. Gregory Court
Williamsville, NY 14221

Starting 7:00 pm
Cost: Free will offering

Refreshments to follow in the
Ministry Center

Sponsored by:
Catholic Medical Association of Buffalo



**Honoring our
Lady of Guadalupe**

Protectress of the Unborn

Performed by the
**St. John Paul II
Schola Cantorum**

MESSAGE FROM OUR LIVING NATIVITY TEAM

With a heavy heart, we share that our traditional Living Nativity, which we have celebrated here at St. Greg's since 2008, will be canceled this year. We know our Living Nativity has become a yearly gathering after Christmas for many families & parishioners. It has been a blessing and a labor of love for Mary and me along with our team, and the many St. Greg's players who have given their time and talent over these twelve years. This would have been our 13th year of celebrating the birth of Christ on that special night in Bethlehem.

We look forward to celebrating with you all next year in the glory of His birth. Know of our love and blessings for all of you. Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas from all of us and the animals too!



Peace, Love and Blessings,
Jeff & Mary Criden and the entire Living Nativity Ministry Team

MASS SCHEDULE

CORRECTION DATE: 11/24/2021

Saturday, November 27 - Vigil Masses

4:00 pm Leonard & Gertrude Sadowski by
Daughter, Frances
Al Donius by Carolyn Nenni

5:30 pm Margaret Deck by Joseph Deck Family

Sunday, November 28 - First Sunday of Advent

8:00 am Edward Murphy by Mike & Tammy
Bender

9:30 am Stanley Smyczynski by Mr. & Mrs.
James Smyczynski

11:00 am For the People of St. Gregory the Great
Parish

12:30 pm Arlene F. Liberti by JoMarie Buscarino

Monday, November 29

7:00 am Muriel Foy by Anna & Bill Foy

8:00 am Charles Armand Elardo by Rose Ann
Lokaj & Family
Charles Elardo by Barbara Schaus

12:00 pm Hon. Thaddeus J. Dulski, MC &
Elizabeth Dulski by Mary & Anthony
Dulski
Mary & Paul Niedzialowski by Family

Tuesday, November 30 - St. Andrew, Apostle

7:00 am Frances Puma by Shelly Marshall

8:00 am Andrew John Sobczyk by Sobczak
Family

12:00 pm Mark Joseph Collins by Vern & Sarah
Anderson

Wednesday, December 1

7:00 am Grace Norman by Norman Family &
Friends

8:00 am Dolores Cardone by Parish Office Staff

12:00 pm Thomas J. SantaLucia by Mom & Dad
James W. O'Shaunecy by Sr. Jean

Thursday, December 2

7:00 am Joseph McGivney by Irma Narduzzo

8:00 am Kevin B. McNamara by Bucello Family

12:00 pm Virginia Czarnecki by Terry & Mike J
Jakubowski

Friday, December 3 - St. Francis Xavier

7:00 am Sebastian Ciminelli (living) by Family

8:00 am John Culkin by The Culkin Family

12:00 pm William Feyerabend by The Clancy
Family

Saturday, December 4 - St. John Damascene

8:00 am Alex Kellner by Mom

Vigil Masses

4:00 pm Henry Wojtowicz (anniv) by Gail
Wojtowicz
Phyllis Simmons by Don & Joyce Lenda

5:30 pm Charles F. Priore by Vern & Sarah
Anderson

Sunday, December 5 - Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 am Walter Kostrzewski by Wife, Lillian

9:30 am Donna Cole by Bob & Carol La

11:00 am Dorothy & Antonio Leone by John
Leone Family

12:30 pm For the People of St. Gregory the
Great Parish

LIFE IS MESSY

What do we do with broken people, broken relationships, broken institutions, broken families, and of course, our very own broken selves? This is an important question; but a more beautiful question holds the answer. Can something that has been broken be put back together in a way that makes it more beautiful than ever before? To discover the answer to this question, we invite you to pick up the latest Matthew Kelly book, available this weekend, for free! This book is about putting our lives back together and allowing ourselves to be put back together by Christ, when life doesn't turn out as we expected it to. Why is life messy? Because we are messy?

DECEASED

MARY R. (LANASA) NOCERA
MAUREEN O'CONNELL
HENRY HOOPER
MARY LANGIEWICZ

HOST, WINE, CANDLE OFFERING

Edward and Judith Kisailus
For 50th Wedding Anniversary

COVID Update: November 23, 2021

Face Coverings: St. Gregory the Great will require a face covering at any time while on our property attending a liturgy, meeting, event or program. Covering must remain over your nose and mouth throughout the entire liturgy, event or program you are attending.

“At this time, masks are mandated for all participants in liturgies held in Catholic churches and worship spaces located in Erie County and at parishes with at least one worship site in Erie County.

“As in the past, the only exception given to this will be for clergy and other liturgical ministers when they are fulfilling a significant speaking role. (They should maintain at least six feet of physical distance from others during these limited occasions.) Please maintain reasonable separation from those not in your household.” Per Diocese of Buffalo—11/23/2021

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass has been lifted. Participation at in-person Masses and other parish events should not be contingent on vaccination status, nor should individuals be questioned regarding their vaccination status or asked to produce a vaccine card.

- Daily Masses will continue to be available on our livestream for those that are unable to attend. **We will continue to record Daily Masses for those that miss the live Mass.**
- Weekend Masses will continue to be available on our livestream and YouTube Channel.
- Only the front doors of the Church will be used to enter and exit for weekend Masses.
- Hand sanitizer is available at the front Church doors and must be used upon entering.
- While the Church is appropriately sanitized, please be aware there is an assumed risk when attending Mass.
- Please do not bring your own cleaning supplies to wipe the pews down as this can damage the wood.
- Crying Room is open. Please the Bulletin for more information.

Parish Office: The Parish Office is open to visitors, but we kindly ask you to please call ahead as we can assist in many ways over the phone. **Face covering is required.**

Catholic Store: The Catholic Store is open. **Face covering is required.**

Café: The Café is open. **Face covering is required.**

Confessions: Confessions are in the Church from 2:30 to 3:45 pm on Saturdays. First Friday Confessions have resumed. Behind screen confessions only, no face to face at this time.

Adoration Chapel: The Chapel is currently open. The Chapel closes daily from 4:00 pm to 4:20 pm for proper cleaning and sanitizations. **Face covering is required.**

Events/Programs: Meetings/Events/Gatherings are still limited on capacity of the space being used. Please contact the Parish Office for more information at this time.

All participants attending in-person meetings or events on St. Gregory the Great campus are required to wear a face covering at any indoor meeting/program regardless of vaccination status, complete Health Screening Questions and sign-in. Please see the event/ministry leader at time of arrival for more information.