

Saint Gregory
the Great
Catholic Community

We are a Stewardship Parish, recognizing that all we have comes from God and as good Stewards we are called to share these gifts.

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The Messenger



ADVENT 2017

Dear Parishioners,

We are well on our way as we journey towards Christmas. Mary and Joseph are brought to Bethlehem by the command of the emperor to participate in the census and be registered. Their journey was a sign of those who were powerless responding to the emperor who is powerful. By bringing the pregnant mother to the place where Jesus must be born, God has fulfilled the Prophecy.

Our Christmas faith is that God does not desert us; that somehow God's friendship is at work, bringing Jesus to be with us and among us today.

The most profound aspect of the Christmas miracle is the joyous response of the uncountable host of heaven! The *'host of heaven'* is the name given to the great number of angelic beings. One angel announces the birth of Jesus, but suddenly there was a great multitude of the heavenly host praising God, *"Glory to God in the Highest."* (Luke 2:14)

Among the witnesses are shepherds, considered disreputable people who are not to be trusted. These people probably were not counted in the census, so the heavenly host announced the birth of the Savior to these who

do not count. Both angels and shepherds were off the map.

If we wish to hear angelic announcements, we need to be with the shepherds; in other words, those out on the edge. In our own parish, the parade of brown bags recently collected at church would indicate that this is happening among us today. In addition, your generous response to hurricane Harvey and other natural disasters, come to mind. So too, your fine giving towards our Offertory Appeal. Even the children at our parish school and in faith formation, have demonstrated outstanding generosity. Surely these actions indicate that we are staying close to the shepherds.

Also, speaking of a child, it is the angel who proclaims, *"And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."* (Luke 2:12) A child is always a sign of hope; of a future we cannot see. It is appropriate that we take this lesson seriously in the opening of our parish preschool. We anticipate this opening as an influence on our community and a real blessing to our school. The preschool should serve to enhance the number

of kindergarten registrations, which has become a real concern in recent years. God bless your fine support in this new venture.

Every Christmas, Christians remember the birth of Jesus and we say "humanity has a future". We cherish our Savior by cherishing the children. If we can struggle to give hope and a future to the children, they offer hope and a future to us.

During this blessed season, do keep Deacon Ron, Stephanie Lower, and Rebecca Krawczak in your prayers for recovery. We are thankful to God that their respective surgeries were a success. During their recuperation we will miss them.

In closing, I invite you to experience God's loving mercy & unconditional love in the **Advent Penance Service on Monday, Dec. 18th at 7pm** in preparation for Christmas. We will have 13 priests to hear your confessions. I look forward to seeing you all at the Advent Penance Service and at Christmas Mass.

Merry Christmas,

Rev. Nicholas Clavin

Rev. Nicholas Clavin Pastor

St. Gregory the Great Catholic School & Preschool



St. Gregory the Great Catholic Preschool, scheduled to open in January 2018, will provide a faith-based learning experience that nurtures, independence, self-esteem, and a love of learning. We invite you to tour our facility, meet the director and staff, and experience the unique design of the facility and preschool program.

Our newly constructed preschool features highly qualified and loving staff who are devoted to the happiness and success of each child. The classrooms are Reggio Emilia and Play Base inspired. Cutting-edge technology includes curriculum-based smartboards and iPads. Live webcam access is available for parents and enhances safety and security in the facility. The natural based playground, themed on California Missions, has been designed to provide the child with a stimulating play experience in an educational setting.

We look forward to sharing the latest jewel in the St. Gregory the Great Parish Crown.



AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE INSPIRES SERVICE IN ACTION AT OUR SCHOOL

The virtue of **Service** is the cornerstone of our faith in that it allows us to be **the hands and feet of Jesus in a world** that desperately needs us to care for one another. Our students and families are deeply committed to service in action, as evidenced by recent projects such as **'Socktober'** (178 pairs of socks for the homeless); **Great Quarter Race** (6,228 meals for the hungry); **'Gift of Love'** (150 new books and 51 toys to Rady Children's Hospital Cancer Unit); **Clothing Drive** for refugees; and **Halloween Candy** donated to children at Casa de los Pobres in Mexico. Our November service outreach included a **Jeans for the Troops Day** (\$200 sent to Veteran's GiGo Fund) and a **Food Drive** in support of our sister parish, Our Lady of Angels. A total of 110 grocery bags full of food was delivered in time for Thanksgiving.



HONORING THE SAINTS ON NOVEMBER 1

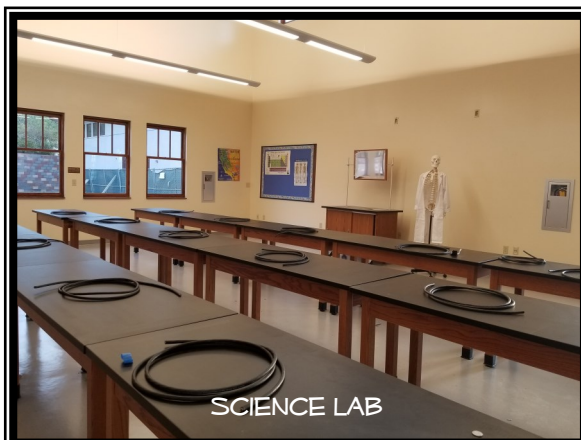


Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students wish St. Gregory the Great Parishioners a blessed Advent Season and A joyful Christmas.

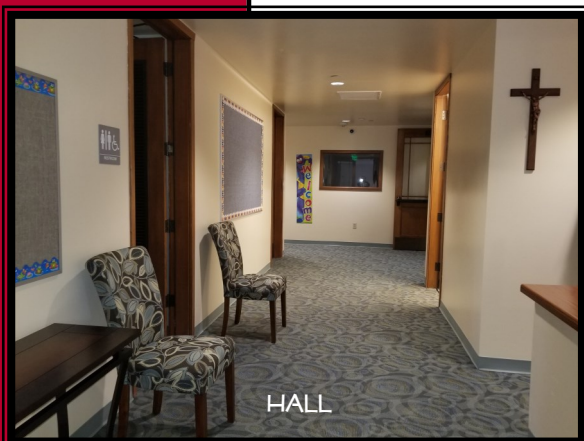
WE HOPE YOU HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO
VISIT US DURING OUR OPEN HOUSE!



PRESCHOOL CLASSROOM



SCIENCE LAB



HALL



PRESCHOOL PLAY AREA



PRESCHOOL PLAY AREA



EXTERIOR BUILDING

"Belong" - Year One Confirmation Retreat - October 27-29, 2017

Last October the youth ministry hosted our annual year one confirmation retreat at Whispering Winds Catholic Conference Center & Camp. The theme of our retreat was "Belong" and came from the scripture verse Romans 15:7, *"Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God."*

We were blessed to have our pastor, Father Nick, along with three other local priests drive up the mountain to administer the Sacrament of Reconciliation for 120+ teens followed by Mass. The weekend was full of powerful faith talks, team buildings games and activities, beautiful prayer experiences and so much more!

A big THANK YOU to all of our amazing adult and teen leaders who gave so generously of their time and talent to be able to make this a wonderful retreat!

Rebecca Krawczak
Director of Youth Ministry





Rosary Making

Tuesday Youth Group Drop-In



**TEAM
BUILDING**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Faith Formation

Registrations have brought to us 525 students in faith formation and 81 students desiring to celebrate First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

Please join us on December 15th at 7:00pm in the church for the parish middle school student's 15th annual Christmas play: Live It. This is a free gift to the parish from the 7th/8th grade students and they have been working on this since early September. This is a wonderful way to get into the true Christmas spirit. There will be treats up in the hall after the play for everyone to enjoy as they mingle with the actors.

Blessings,

Ginger Marlin
Judy Roitz
Janet Malacane



Christmas Play: Live It!
Friday, Dec. 15th 7:00pm

Ministry Spotlight: Stewardship in Action!

Stewards of Parish Development (DSC)

Believe..... After many months of planning and following our Parish Master Plan, the construction of Phase 3 of the Catholic Community Center (School Campus) started in earnest at the beginning of 2017. We expect the work to be completed in early December of this year. Phase 3 consists of a new building to the east of the existing School building and includes 6 new classrooms. Three of the rooms will be additions to the existing K-8 School and include a Science Room, a Resource Center Room, and a new Kindergarten Room. The other three rooms will become our Preschool which should help ensure a steady flow of young children into our School.



Another item accomplished this year was the replacement of the Church incandescent ceiling lights with new LED lights. The new lights are brighter, should last much longer, and reduce our electricity costs. Yes, let there be light!

Speaking of light, the abundance of light, actually sunlight in the Church parking lot was reduced to provide structures for Solar, reducing our electricity cost and providing much appreciated shaded parking.

We also worked with various contractors to develop and execute a plan to relocate the back wall and re-landscape the backyard of the Parish Rectory when it was discovered that years ago the backyard was partially situated on City Open Space. Besides work on the backyard we were required to renovate that area and return the area to the City Open Space which was once situated behind the Rectory.

Our DSC under the leadership and guidance of our beloved Pastor, Father Nick, is here to provide our parish and school communities with the planning, construction, and maintenance for today and our tomorrows.

Wishing you and your loved ones a very Blessed and Merry Christmas and New Year.

God Bless,
Maria Sittmann

Communion to the Homebound

Do you know of anyone who is not able to join us at Mass...it could be a relative, a neighbor, a fellow ministry member or even a work colleague? The Communion to the Homebound Ministry currently has 26 ministers ready, willing and eager to visit and bring Communion to those who are not able to come to Mass. It could be a short term recovery from surgery or a long term disability that prevents them from coming to Mass.



Please call the parish office or Paulette Deniston at 619-857-5443 to request a visit. Father Nick is also available for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

A big thank you is also in order to Paulette and Frank Deniston for their inspiring and heartfelt lay witness talks that we heard at Mass a few weeks ago. Their stewardship efforts are a profound example of living as a disciple of Christ in our parish and community. **Thank you Paulette and Frank!**

Pastoral Stewardship Council (PSC)

St. Gregory the Great's Pastoral Stewardship Council is comprised of parishioners who are active in this vibrant parish, who help Father Nick in keeping track with all that is occurring in the various Ministries & Groups. The members of the PSC with their contact information are all listed in each Sunday's church bulletin, as are the heads of the various Ministries & Groups. With such a large and active parish here at St. Gregory's there is a lot occurring, which at many times can overlap.

Over the past few years the quarterly reporting form used by the Ministries & Groups has enabled Father Nick, the parish staff and the PSC to have a good handle on what is occurring and what is planned. The PSC meets the first Tuesday of each month - except in the months of July, August & December. The PSC often discusses issues and challenges arising in the parish brought up to Father Nick, as well as planning for the future – both short and long term.



Michael Kielty
Chief Steward



We at St. Gregory the Great Parish have been blessed with an amazing community to practice our faith. The Parish has a beautiful Church, thoughtful liturgies, numerous ministries, classes for our children and many opportunities to spread the word of Jesus Christ. In the past fifteen years, we have built and expanded our Catholic School, expanded the Hall, and been able to maintain our beautiful parish campus. We are doing our part of not only providing the facilities for meetings and classes for ourselves but for generations to come.

St. Gregory the Great Parish has established a contributing presence in San Diego's Catholic community because of you, our parishioners. The Parish's eighty ministries is testimony of how active you are in spreading our faith within our community and for others. Your continued financial support has done so much to support our teaching of future Catholic leaders, provide meeting space for our ministries and social events, and maintain our beautiful Parish campus. You all should be proud of what you have built.

If you are a parishioner but have not contributed as much as you would like, please jump on the band wagon. You will find that the Church needs everyone's support. We cannot continue to have a few generous households provide most of the financial support. Also, you will find the more you participate in the liturgy, meetings and events, the stronger the Holy Spirit will grow in you. Be an active participant in the Parish. You will have that Christmas spirit for the entire year.

Gene Fantano

Parish Calendar Highlights

- **Middle School Christmas Play**—Friday, December 15, 2017
- **Parish Penance Service** – Monday, December 18, 2017
- **School Christmas Program** - Tuesday, December 19, 2017
- **Parish Office Closed** - December 25-26 and January 1, 2017
- **Pasta Festa** - Friday, January 12, 2018
- **Sister Parish Outreach Rummage Sale** - Saturday, February 3, 2018



Saint Gregory the Great Christmas Schedule

Advent Reconciliation Service

Monday, December 18 2017 ~ 7:00 PM

Christmas Eve Masses

Sunday, December 24, 2017

Jr. Youth Choir ~ 4:00 PM

Youth Choir & Jr. Youth Choir ~ 6:00 PM

Contemporary Adult Choir ~ 8:00 PM

Traditional Adult Choir ~ 10:00 PM

Christmas Day Masses

Monday, December 25, 2017

7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM

Octave Day of Christmas:

The Blessed Virgin Mary, The Mother of God

Monday, January 1, 2018

8:00 AM

Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday, January 7, 2018

7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM



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