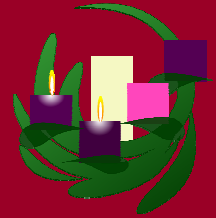


The Messenger



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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Dear Parishioners,

At Christmas we light a candle to show the way. It is an ancient Irish custom, a sign of a Christmas home, a safe house for the priest in troubled times. A sign of hope in sorrow, in bereavement, in separation, in loneliness. A sign of welcome to the stranger, to the immigrant; welcome home from hospital; welcome to the peacemaker and even if some thru death or distance won't be home for Christmas – a penny candle will be lit to renew a flame of love.

Barbara Streisand's dramatic act of lighting a candle all those years ago, at the beginning of her last concert, still remains with me as significant. She dedicated it to the many wise and good people whose lives had been needlessly and violently cut short; leader figures, lights in darkness. It was an inspirational gesture, a kind of gentle rage against the dying of the light. But more than that, it was a kindling of hope, a birth of new light and a looking to the source of light.

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of light. We were afraid of the dark, but it need not be so any longer for Christ's coming has shattered all kinds of darkness. That's what Christmas celebrates. So if we rage against the dying of the Light, we do so with a confidence that ours is an everlasting light.

Lighting the Christmas candle is no stage act. Christ has come to stay, so dot the hills and valleys with the flickering flame of hope. For now He shines through the vulnerable flesh of a helpless child in a manger in Bethlehem. This Christmas this child is born afresh, a light in the darkness of our times. Once again Jesus is born into the messiness of our world. The good news is that Christ comes to illuminate that darkness. Christ is the torch. He is the love, a shining light, to light our way.

We too are called to be beams of light. This past year, you the people of God have been a light in the midst of the darkness of the clergy abuse which descended upon the Church, by your fidelity to prayerful practice of your faith. Your response to our offertory increase "ask" last fall was quite remarkable (magnificent). God Bless you for continuing to give in these challenging times.

Parents and grandparents at the school make big sacrifices for Catholic education. Modern scientific study tells us the greatest environment for the formation of your children is not 6th thru 12th grade but Pre-K thru 8th grade. You are giving your children the greatest opportunity. Our new preschool, we are happy to say, has an enrollment of 46 students – a light in our time. I commend the parents and grandparents of our faith formation students, who faithfully bring their children to classes and Mass each Sunday. There is no substitute for parents modeling the reception of the sacraments for their children.

I wish to remind you that the greatest place to make preparation for Christmas is the human heart, God so loved the world. Do make space in your calendar to bring the whole family for the Advent Penance Service on Monday, December 17, 2018 at 7:00pm. Reconciliation with God and each other frees us to give the very best in love because we shed selfishness and prepare the way for the birth of Jesus in our hearts.

We invite you and your family to join us in the Christmas liturgies. May the Christ of Christmas bless you and your family with joy & love.

Merry Christmas,

Rev. Nicholas Clavin

Rev. Nicholas P. Clavin

Pastor

From the desk of Deacon Ron

Advent by definition is a time of preparation in anticipation of an event or a person. For the Christian it is a period of time in preparation of Christ. Our tendency is to focus on an event that has happened, yet true Advent is spent in preparation of an event not yet here. If we have been paying attention to the daily reading of our liturgical calendar, the focus is on the heavenly realm and the second coming of Jesus. As this letter is being written, the Church just celebrated the feast of Christ the King. This feast always challenges me to answer the question, Is Jesus my King? Is Jesus the central focus of my life in all that I do? If not, what is? What or who are the focal points of my life? Where is my life headed and how am I getting there? If Jesus is not the hub of my journey through this life, what or who is?

If Christ Jesus is truly the central figure of my Christian faith it calls me to be in anticipation of His coming again. Will I be ready? Will I recognize Him or will I miss Him as happened to many at the first coming? The Church is here to help us recognize Him in our daily lives. It is this very fact that I have found strength in my faith. I know that God is guiding the Church. If it were not it would not have not lasted over 2,000 years. We have been trying to destroy the Church from within through division, corruption, deceit, abuse..... for about that long. Any other organization would have folded had it not been held together by divine mortar. Our Advent should be doing the things that make Him present to ourselves and to others so we will recognize him in His coming.

Recently at two of our Sunday Masses, during the homily, 10 parishioners at each Mass were asked to come forward to accept a challenge. Each of the 20 was given a \$10 bill, not of the Church's money. They were asked as a condition upon receiving the gift to use the \$10 to give it away to another. They were asked to first take time to pray and ask Jesus to guide them in the Spirit and place on their hearts how He would direct them to share this gift. They were also asked to be aware of what stirred in their hearts as they sought the Spirit's direction both the struggle and joy of discernment. They were also asked to write a testimony of their experience to share with the community.

As of the writing of this letter 12 of the 20 have written to share their story. These stories have been placed on our parish website for you to read. These stories are not there to edify the deeds of these individuals. They are to witness to you the joy that awaits each of us when we put aside our inward vision and in the spirit of intent and mission look outward to see opportunities to be the hands of Jesus to others and to see Christ in others. For it is in giving to the least of these that we have given to Jesus. It is this kind of selflessness that we will recognize Him in the breaking of the bread.

Prepare the way of the Lord this Advent and make it part of your life yearlong and in this you will know the true blessings of Christmas!

In your service,

Deacon Ron

P.S. To read the responses check out the website (www.stgg.org) for the, "\$10 Challenge".





St. Gregory the Great Catholic School

Scholars & Stewards



Scholars

1. Robotics in 8th grade.
2. Fr. Nick learning with a student on the iPad.
3. Musical recorders!
4. Scientist in 4th grade.
5. Learning together in Gr. 4.
6. Preschool- 2-year-olds
7. Friends Forever!





1



2



3

Stewards

1. Great Quarter Race—7, 572 meals donated
2. 3rd Grade Girls donated the Buddy Bench– Need a friend, find a friend.
3. School Garden –Stewards of God’s Creation.
4. Fall Festival Fun. 5. All Saints Day!
6. “Socktober”- 200+ pairs of socks donated.
7. Thanksgiving Food Drive– 200+ Grocery Bags!



4



5



6



7

St. Gregory the Great Catholic Preschool



Learning about fire safety.



Practicing counting & sorting with eggs on Farmers Market day.



Halloween fun



Working on a STEM project.

The fall season is off to a wonderful start at the St. Gregory the Great Catholic Preschool. As the days get shorter and the weather begins to change, we are keeping very busy. The children are settling into their daily routines of preschool and building wonderful friendships. The preschoolers are busy preparing and practicing for their first holiday program, as we enter the Advent Season, it offers an opportunity to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus.

St. Gregory the Great Youth



Dear Friends,

Blessings to you and yours. It has been almost a year since I inherited this ministry, and what a year it has been! I am full of gratitude for all the people that have helped me along this journey. I am especially thankful to Fr. Nick, and my co-workers who show me love, patience and humor.

I have also had the privilege of working with some amazing volunteers. Their "yes" to the call to be involved in this ministry has made a world of difference! They have shown their willingness to accompany teens on this journey, and we humbly pray that this will make a lasting impression!

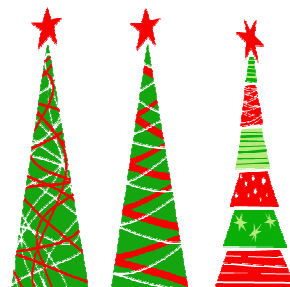


This summer has been very busy! We attended a Steubenville conference, went to leadership camp at Whispering Winds, and hung out at the beach with our deanery. Many hours were spent learning, developing and practicing the skills to become a Servant

Leader in the Confirmation Program. I am so proud of the hard work they did and am continually awed by their dedication and willingness to share their amazing God-given gifts. Their desire to know Christ and share their stories is inspiring.

Before the year closes out we will have completed five sessions for each class, gone to Knott's Scary Farm, sold Christmas decorations, gone on the year 1 retreat, attended monthly adoration, had our annual Scavenger Hunt, gone to serve at Fr. Joe's Villages, and much more! I pray God continues to give our program the grace we need to continue His work for the Kingdom. Peace. Suzanne Guzzardo

St. Gregory the Great Youth



Youth Group Drop-In



**TEAM
BUILDING**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Faith Formation

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Faith Formation

This year we were happy to add Erica Rossio to our Faith Formation team. She is such a gift to us all in the office. We had a wonderful Vacation Bible School this past summer with almost 200 children and 150 Youth volunteers. It was called Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus. This is always the highlight of the summer for the kids and for us. We enjoyed a week of singing, dancing, water activities and science activities, drama and of course food. Next years is called Roar: Life is Wild-God is Good. We hope to have a full house again on July 22 through July 26 2019. Registration will begin in late April for VBS 2019. Another wonderful year has begun, registrations for Faith Formation-2018/2019 have brought us 500 students and 101 students desiring to celebrate First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

Blessings, Ginger Marlin & Erica Rossio & Janet Malacane



STEWARDSHIP

Sharing God's Grace and Mercy – Ministry Stewardship in Action – December 2018

Martha's Ministry



Have you ever wondered how our sacred vessels stay so clean and polished? We have a group of nine wonderful ladies who lovingly care for all the materials we use at Mass. These 'Marthas' work quietly behind the scenes to keep everything restocked and ready for worship. Thank you Marthas for your good stewardship!

Contact: Caroline Yandell
858.566.6870
carolinesfo@yahoo.com

Sign Language Interpretation



Thanks to Gigi and Sabrina we are able to share the love of Christ in our Mass to our deaf community each Sunday at 9:00am. These talented stewards wonderfully bridge the gap between the spoken Mass and those who need sign language to understand. Their contribution to our Sunday Liturgy is such a blessing to our deaf brothers and sisters.

Contact: Gigi Howland
858.653.3540
info@stgg.org



Gardening Ministry



Have you walked around the parish campus lately to take in all the rich beauty in our garden landscape? These talented stewards do so much to enhance our relationship with Christ through the bountiful gifts of His creation. Thank you Gardening Ministry for your faithful dedication to our environment!

Contact: Michael Yang
619.607.0875
001myang@gmail.com

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



Adoration is a time of worship and meditation in the Blessed Sacrament. Each month we set aside 24 hours devoted to prayer and YOU are invited! It is so peaceful and transformative to spend this time with Jesus. If you haven't experienced this profound sense of joy, please consider it next month. ♥

Contact: Dave Rowe
858.549.2215
crowe23863@aol.com

St. Gregory the Great Young Adults

Dear St. Gregory the Great community,

Since my arrival in July, I have been shown an abundant amount of support, openness, and hospitality from this community. Part of my ministry is to build connections with the youth in order for them to have a smooth transition from being a part of Youth Ministry in high school to being welcomed into the Young Adult community. In July I began to build these connections by attending a beach bonfire, Steubenville conference, and the Servant Leadership Team training sessions.

I hosted a "Meet and Greet" in August so I could understand what the Young Adults are wanting and needing from this newly forming community. Out of that came great ideas such as the weekly Bible Study on Thursday nights, the desire to have social events such as Happy Hours, Trivia Nights, and the continuation of the Summer Softball league. In October I hosted a Beach Clean-Up on Moonlight Beach as a kick-off to "Service Saturday", focusing on the Catholic Social Teaching of *Care for God's Creation*. In November, we had our "Friendsgiving" Potluck which included lots of yummy food and good conversations. I'm looking forward to connecting with the Young Adults who attend college outside of San Diego, as we gather for a reunion in January.

I'm very fortunate to be well supported by the Diocesan Office for Young Adult Ministry. I was able to connect with lots of other Young Adult leaders in our Diocese by attending their annual Young Adult Retreat at Whispering Winds, as well as their monthly leadership formation nights for Young Adult leaders. I'm also looking forward to be in community and learning through fellowship during our Young Adult leaders retreat in February.

I'm both grateful and encouraged by your continued prayers as I journey on my path as the Young Adult Coordinator. Please know of my prayers for you all you during this special season in our Church and beyond.

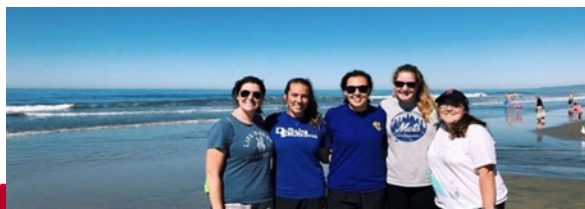
In Christ,

Maggie Morrin

Young Adult Ministry

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am with them."

~Matthew 18:20



Holy Land Pilgrimage

Thirty St. Gregory the Great parishioners embarked on a wonderful two-week pilgrimage in October to the Holy Land. They traveled throughout Galilee, renewing their vows in Cana, sailing on the Sea of Galilee, visiting the many miracle sites of Jesus situated around the Sea of Galilee including Jesus' home base in Capernaum, and celebrating Mass at many of the sites, presided by Fr. Kelly with music led by our music director, Katherine Cavallo. They had a blast traveling through Jordan to see Jerash, Mt. Nebo, and Petra. They renewed their baptismal rites and joyously sang baptism hymns with pilgrims from around the world at the Jordan River Baptismal Site. They enjoyed floating in the Dead Sea, climbing Masada, relaxing in Jericho and visiting Qumran, the site of the Dead Sea Scrolls. They stayed next door to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, celebrating Mass and learning from the local Palestinian Christians. And finally, they followed in the footsteps of Jesus throughout Jerusalem, walking and praying the Stations of the Cross in the Via Dolorosa from the Garden of Gethsemane to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the site of Golgotha and the Tomb of Jesus. They brought your intentions with them to all Masses and left your names in intention books throughout the Holy Land and in the Temple Wall. It was an extraordinary once-in-a-lifetime trip for all, and they were incredibly thankful for your prayers throughout their travels. You can find their blog at www.LiturgyMusic.com (click on "Blog") to read more, or hear directly from the pilgrims about their trip on February 10, 2019 in the parish hall.



Cana

Jerusalem, Temple Mount
Dome of the Rock



Bethany -
Lazarus' Tomb
Mass



Cana ~ Renewal of Vows



Caesarea Maritima

Holy Land Pilgrimage



Jordan River renewal
of Baptismal Rites

Sea of Galilee Boat Ride



Bethany Lazarus' Tomb Mass



Sea of Galilee

Mt. of Olives Palm Sunday Procession



FINANCE REPORT FY2017/2018

Saint Gregory the Great Church

www.saintgregorythegreat.org 858-653-3540

Annual Income

	Year-end 6/30/18
Wkly Envelopes/Credit Card Pmts/Loose cash	\$ 2,085,857
Youth and Confirmation programs	\$ 172,054
Other parish income	\$ 340,917
	\$ 2,598,828

Annual Expenditures

Salaries and benefits	907,768
Operating & Facility expenses	807,293
Debt Payments	118,923
Faith Formation	205,198
Diocesan assessments	220,946
Charitable contributions	111,672
	\$ 2,371,801

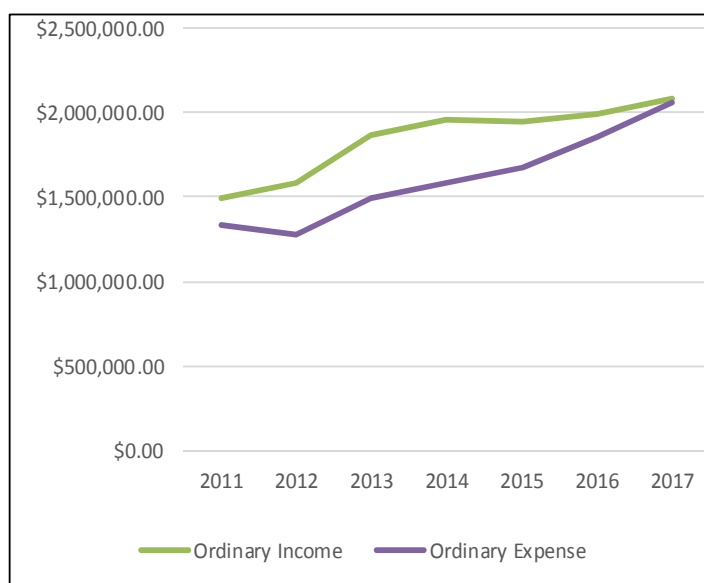
Recommendations:

> As God's stewards of treasure, please carefully reflect on your contributions as a sacrificial sharing.

> Our parish requires everyone's financial support for daily operations, please consider contributing consistently.

> We strongly encourage parishioners to consider signing up for automatic credit card payments.

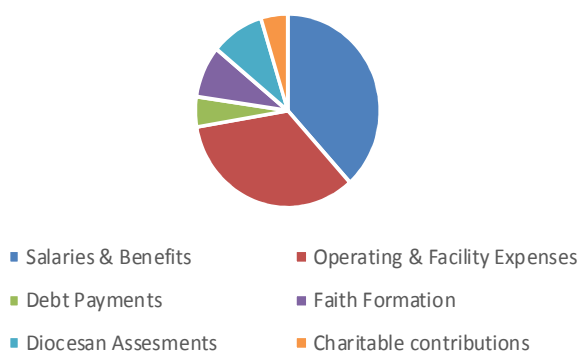
> If your income has increased over the past year, please consider increasing your tithe.



Contributing Households Credit Cards and Weekly Envelope Giving

Weekly Giving	Households		Contributions	
	#	%	\$	%
\$60 or more	128	6%	738,294	40%
\$40 to 59	109	5%	279,627	15%
\$25 to \$39	205	9%	320,696	17%
\$20 to \$24	144	6%	162,003	9%
\$15 to \$19	133	6%	113,527	6%
\$10 to \$14	214	10%	128,321	7%
\$5 to \$9	242	11%	78,049	4%
\$1 to \$4	318	14%	38,950	2%
Other	742	33%	7,856	0%
Total	2235	100%	1,867,323	100%

Annual Expenditures



Demographics

Households by Location

Scripps Ranch	1,804
Mira Mesa	316
Rancho Penasquitos	310
Rancho Bernardo	163
Poway	163
4S Ranch	110
Carmel Mountain Ranch	105
Other	212
Total Households	3,183

Longevity of our Households

Years in Parish	Households	Percent
0-5	712	22.37%
6-10	745	23.41%
11-15	742	23.31%
16-20	585	18.38%
21-25	169	5.31%
26-30	192	6.03%
Not Known	38	1.19%
Totals	3,183	100%

What Were Our Ages?

Ages	Total	Male	Female	Percent
0-5	370	183	187	3.35%
6-17	2,052	1,037	1,015	18.59%
18-30	1,870	943	927	16.94%
31-40	1,328	622	706	12.03%
41-50	1,779	842	937	16.11%
51-60	1,618	806	812	14.66%
61-70	848	430	418	7.68%
71-80	447	220	227	4.05%
81+	193	88	105	1.75%
Not Know	535	248	287	4.85%
Totals	11,040	5,419	5,621	100.00%

What are our average ages?

The average age of our adult parishioners is 45 years old.

The average age of our child parishioners is 11 years old.

Interfaith Marriages?

Of all unions, 32% involved one spouse from another faith tradition.

What Sacraments Did We Receive?

	Total	Adult	Children
Baptisms	95	3	92
First Eucharist	89	7	101
Confirmation	113	113	0
First Reconciliation	89	7	82
Marriages	29	29	0
Funerals (not a Sacrament)	19	19	0

Faith Formation Enrollment

PreK	17
Kindergarten	35
Grade 1	65
Grade 2	80
Grade 3	66
Grade 4	64
Grade 5	54
Grade 6	41
Grade 7	30
Grade 8	53
Total Enrollment	505

STGG School Enrollment

Kindergarten	25
Grade 1	17
Grade 2	18
Grade 3	25
Grade 4	24
Grade 5	22
Grade 6	25
Grade 7	25
Grade 8	29
Total Enrollment	210

Confirmation Enrollment

Total Year One	136	Total Year Two	108
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Stewardship of Time & Talent

In Which Ministries Did Our Parishioners Participate?

Ministry	Members in Ministry	Ministry	Members in Ministry
Adopt-A-Family	2	Knights of Columbus	221
Adoration	4	Lectors	73
Altar Linens	7	Liturgical Environment	53
Altar Servers	46	Liturgical Scheduling	1
Baptism Seminars	4	Marriage Encounter	14
Bible Study	53	Martha's Ministry	9
Blood Drive	2	Mental Health Ministry	8
Boy Scouts 616	26	Military Friendship & Support	1
Boy Scouts 664	31	Ministry Fair	2
Build-A-Miracle	9	Ministry of Consolation	39
Catholic Men's Fellowship	26	Ministry of Mothers	63
Children's Liturgy of the Word	5	Music Ministry	88
Communion to the Homebound	20	New Parishioner Orientations	24
Computer Help Ministry	4	Nursery Co-op	3
Confirmation Preparation - Adult	1	Our Lady of Fatima Devotion	1
Confirmation Preparation - Youth	113	Parent Teacher Stewardship Guild (PTSG)	1
Cooking Group	27	Parish Tours	3
Cub Scouts	24	Pastoral Stewardship Council	18
Cursillo	59	Prayer Wheel	23
Daily Mass Ministry	52	Prayers and Squares	37
Development Committee	11	RCIA	8
Divine Mercy Cenacle	30	Relevant Radio	1
Donuts and Coffee	24	Respect for Life / Social Justice	58
Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	179	Rosary Cenacle	27
Faith Formation - Adult	1	Rosary Makers	21
Faith Formation - Children	68	School Board	1
Faith Formation - Middle School	25	Senior Social Ministry	0
Family Cancer Support	11	Sister Parish Outreach	27
Filipino - American	47	Special Needs Ministry	4
Film Fans	23	St Vincent DePaul, Meals for the Homeless	68
Finance Committee	7	STGG Food Share	25
Gala	68	Vacation Bible School	149
Gardening Ministry	28	Wedding Ministry	7
Greeters & Ushers	110	Widows Friendship Group	17
Grief Share	1	Women's Book Club	19
Health and Safety Ministry	23	Women's Friendship Circle	8
Helping Hands	20	Young Adult Ministry	2
Kitchen Coordinator	1	Youth Ministry	20
Total Ministries	76	Total Members	2336

"Let us use well the time that God gives us, so that He may give us His eternity." Blessed Louis Brisson

"When we work for God, nothing is small!" St. Leonie Aviat

"How immeasurable is the goodness of God!" St. Francis de Sales

Parish Calendar Highlights

- **Middle School Christmas Play**—Friday, December 14, 2018
- **Parish Penance Service** – Monday, December 17, 2018
- **School Christmas Program** - Tuesday, December 18, 2018
- **Parish Office Closed** - December 25-26 and January 1, 2018
- **Sister Parish Outreach Rummage Sale** - Saturday, February 2, 2019



Saint Gregory the Great Christmas Schedule

Advent Reconciliation Service

Monday, December 17 2018 ~ 7:00 PM

Christmas Eve Masses

Monday, December 24, 2018

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

Tuesday, December 25, 2018

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

Octave Day of Christmas:

*The Blessed Virgin Mary, The Mother of God
Vigil ~Monday, December 31, 2018 @ 5:00 PM*

Tuesday, January 1, 2019 @ 8:00 AM

Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday, January 6, 2019

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

Baptism of the Lord

Sunday, January 13, 2019

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



St. Gregory the Great Catholic Community

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