

# The Messenger



## ST. 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,

The delight of the Holy Season of Christmas is upon us. "I bring you glad tidings of great joy to be shared by all the faithful." Luke 2:10

With Christmas, God has spoken His Word. The Son of God is the Word of God. He is the communication of the Father. The Father sent His Word to us. The angels sang in the night, "We bring you tidings of great joy". The angels are God's messengers, bringing us the Gospel which is the Good News. To evangelize is to spread the Gospel and so pass on the Good Word. (Do invite someone to a Christmas Liturgy.)

The world, our world needs the Good Word. We are not only in touch with one another in sending greetings and good wishes at Christmas, we also commune with God and He with us. We communicate with God in public and private prayer.

I thank God for all of you and your great faith. We all thank God for our families and loved ones. In our worship we thank God for a Saviour, the Lord Jesus, the Word of God, Emmanuel, God with us.

Christmas is the beginning of a new kind of Communication with God. It is as if life matters because love matters. "God so loved the world, He sent His only begotten Son". John 3:16 We are put on Earth a little while that we may learn to bear the beams of love." Emily Dickenson

We each know something of human love which can be very beautiful. We know something of

Divine love in Jesus, born humble & hidden, in a stable in Bethlehem, that First Christmas night. Superbly beautiful, it is love divine.

The Angels knew that love, and sang glorious music for the poor shepherds. The angels told them to go and they did. It is clear He came to bring good news to the poor. It was also a clear night; the brilliant star shone in the sky over the place of birth. The high and mighty, knowing what it meant by grace, came from afar to offer royal gifts.

Indeed Christmas is a communication feast. It is an exchange of gifts, He gave Himself to us, the good Word of God. We give ourselves to Him, the human answer, the returned greeting, the responsive Word. Especially, we give to the poor, to whom He was first made known in the shepherds.

One way you can give back is by participating in the design of a new future for our parish. A strategic planning day with Dr. Dan Ebener will give us the opportunity to fashion the future of our faith community. This day will take place on Saturday, February 11, 2017. More information can be found on page 2 of this newsletter. All are welcome. Please call the office to let us know of your interest in attending.

Christmas green is for life and hope; Christmas red is for the heart of love, the fruit of the tree. Our evergreen holly tree for Christmas was laden with red berries, decorated by nature. A

heavy crop of berries foretold a hard winter; God in nature providing for the birds of the air.



In a certain way, it foretold another tree, the tree of the cross, which carried the blood of the Saviour, who takes away the sins of the world. As I write, in last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus offered mercy to the good thief, "this day you shall be with me in paradise". Luke 23: 43 I invite you to experience God's loving mercy & unconditional love in the Advent Reconciliation Service on Monday, Dec. 12th at 7pm in preparation for Christmas. We will have at least 12 priests to hear your confessions. In the last month we have celebrated 19 priest hours of Reconciliation for grades 5,6,7,8 & 9 (Confirmation one) not including our Catholic School.

So give glory to God in Heaven who gave glory to God on earth in His coming. O Wonderful Counselor. O Wonder of the modern world, Christ, Word made flesh, Son of Mary.

Merry Christmas!

*Rev. Nicholas Clavin*

Rev. Nicholas Clavin  
Pastor



## St Gregory the Great continuing Adult Faith Formation

### New Wineskins

As the Church moves into a new liturgical year the season of Advent becomes a time to build or restore our foundations of faith. Too often, as with anything in life, we can get bogged down with routine, doing the same thing over and over. When anything lacks proper stimulus we tend to go through the motions. Instead of having a sense of purpose in life we simply maintain the day to day routine. This can happen as a person, as a spouse, as a parent or a friend. It can happen as a family, a community, a country or as a Church. Slumping into a mode of maintenance deadens our minds, our hearts, and our souls. It affects our relationships and can erode our own sense of worth. We can even fall into depression and self-judgment of being unloved by others and God.

Recently I have been exposed to several events that have affected my awareness of the importance of stimulus, of having a purpose, a mission, living intentionally. Living intentionally, let's call this our mission, takes change and perhaps doing things different. If we want things to be different, if we want to be fully alive it requires we think new things or do old things in new ways. At one of the events I attended a scripture passage jumped out at me dealing with this issue: Mark 2:22 - "And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and the skins *as well*; but *one* puts new wine into fresh wineskins."

As a Church our very nature requires us to be a people of "MISSION" while maintaining a certain base. When we do the same things over and over we deaden our sense of mission and become distracted with maintenance pouring all our energies into the same old things. Mission requires that we pull together thoughts and ideas from one another, to stimulate one another, to identify what is working and what is not working.

As a community, the Catholic community of St. Gregory the Great it is important for us to come together time to time to put our heads together as a community to identify and define our MISSION, to plan pastorally the future. It is time to do just that, keeping in mind the past, looking at the present, and dreaming of the future.

The staff, the lay leadership along with our pastor, Fr. Nicholas Clavin, is planning such an event set for Saturday, February 11, 2017 at 8:30 AM here in the parish hall. The Pastoral Planning will be facilitated by author and popular Catholic speaker, Dr. Dan Ebener. Dr. Ebener was with us a few years ago presenting a morning workshop on Servant Leadership.

Our morning of Pastoral Planning is a time to share ideas, to brainstorm, to dream what we want for the future, to focus on that, which will stimulate new life in our community and how we can stimulate the larger community of Scripps Ranch and beyond. It's a time to think outside the box, of how we do what we do, while staying inside the circle of our Catholic faith. It will be pulling together new wineskins for new wine.

In receiving this newsletter know that you are an important part of this process. Whether you go to daily Mass or come to Christmas and Easter Masses only, your opinion or idea could be one that helps stimulate new life. Please use our website and bulletin to find more information about the pastoral planning event, New Wineskins.

Have a blessed Advent journey and a joyful Christmas season,

Deacon Ron



## Spotlight Event

### Filipino-American Community Annual

### Pista Sa Nayon Dinner Dance!



**November 12, 2016**

Many thanks to the hard-working members of our beloved Fil-Am Community for the wonderful Pista Sa Nayon Dinner Dance! It was a resounding success and enjoyed by all. What a fine example of stewardship in action!

The tradition of the Pista Sa Nayon dates back centuries

to the rural areas and towns of the Philippines. During Pista Sa Nayon (a Filipino phrase translated "town festival") Filipinos would gather for a fiesta in the middle of town to celebrate a good harvest, and it would be a time for people to focus on their neighbors, family and

friends, solidifying the sense of community and hard work.

We are in deep gratitude for the opportunity to share in this delightful tradition!



Photos Courtesy of



NEWSLETTER TITLE

[www.stgg.org](http://www.stgg.org)





## "Belong" - Year One Confirmation Retreat - October 28-30, 2016

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", derived from the scripture verse Psalm 100:3, *"Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his flock."*

Our pastor, Father Nick, along with two local priests, drove up the mountain to administer the sacrament of reconciliation for 110+ teens followed by Mass.

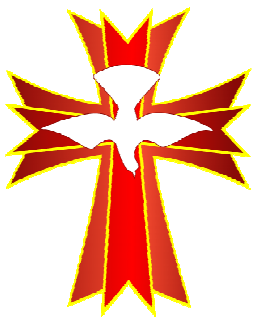
It was a powerful and fun retreat with adult and teen core leaders who shared their faith talks, lead team-building games, worship, night prayer under the stars and more. This retreat was definitely one for the books!



One of our core team leaders sharing her faith talk on Friday night.



Some of our adult teachers taking a selfie with Pope Francis. 😊



Group Photo- We had over 190 teens and adults at our retreat!



## Wednesday Youth Group Nights



## Annual Pumpkin Carving Night October 19, 2016







# Saint Gregory The Great Catholic School



## STEWARDSHIP



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The Great Quarter Race, held on October 31, was an event that raised 5,920 quarters (\$1,480) in support of Cross Catholic Outreach and World Food Day. Each quarter represents a nutritious vitameal for a hungry child. Over the past three years, St. Gregory students have donated a total of 19,605 vitameals to feed the hungry.

## SPORTS



Girl's JV Volleyball team placed second in the Catholic Sports League, Gold bracket. The girls had a wonderful season and represented our school with great sportsmanship and Guardian pride. Thank you Coach/Parent, Kelly Ball.

St. Gregory Boy's JV Flag Football team are undefeated in the diocese and advance to the playoffs. Coach/Parent John Grissom is so proud of this great team! Go Guardians!

## HONORING THE SAINTS- Nov. 1

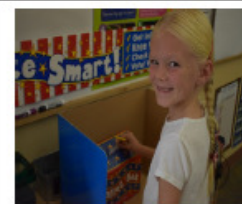


## ST. GREGORY STUDENTS HONORED



Gianna M. and Shea B., 8<sup>th</sup> graders, were recently honored by Senator Joel Anderson for their oratorical skills and outstanding community spirit when they competed against thirty other contestants reciting a patriotic poem. Senator Anderson has offered a summer internship to both students, and has also offered to write recommendations for college.

## ELECTIONS



Students learned about the electoral process, voting procedures, electoral college, and campaign strategies on November 8 by voting for their favorite ice-cream. Vanilla, chocolate and sherbet ice-cream were the candidates. Chocolate ice-cream was victorious. Election Day was marked with a popsicle for everyone at the end of the day!



## HIGH SCHOOL PREP



Eighth graders are early risers on Thursday mornings, attending our 7 AM preparation class for the Catholic High School Placement Tests (on January 21, 2017).

## Mother's Teresa's Message



## St. Gregory the Great Catholic Christmas Message

The staff, students, and families at St. Gregory the Great Catholic School wish you a peaceful **Advent** season, a joyous **Christmas**, and hopeful **New Year!**



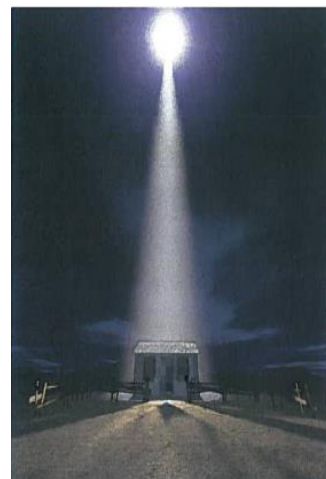
## AUTUMN PASTA FESTA DINNER

Over two hundred fifty guests attended the first Pasta Festa Dinner of this school year at the parish hall on October 28. Children came in Halloween costumes. Delicious food was generously provide by Filippi's Pizza Grotto. Second, fourth and eighth grade families graciously hosted the event and provided desserts. Activities included Halloween Bingo, crafts, coloring, and cake walk. Our gratitude goes to Greg Wisniew and the Knights of Columbus for their support and to Rebecca and Doug Korn, who have graciously volunteered to plan all Pasta Festa Dinners this year. A wonderful evening of fellowship was had by all!



## Parish Calendar Highlights

- **Immaculate Conception Mass** - 8:00AM & 7:00PM
- **Middle School Christmas Play**—Friday, December 9, 2016
- **Parish Penance Service** – December 12, 2016
- **School Christmas Program** - December 15, 2016
- **Parish Office Closed** - December 26, 27, January 2 & 16
- **Sister Parish Rummage Sale** - February 4, 2017
- **New Wineskins** - February 11, 2017
- **World Day of the Sick Anointing Mass** - February 11, 2017 @ 5:00 PM



### *Saint Gregory the Great Christmas Schedule*

#### *Advent Reconciliation Service*

*Monday, December 12, 2016 ~ 7:00 PM*

#### *Christmas Eve Masses*

*Saturday, December 24, 2016*

*Jr. Youth Choir ~ 4:00 PM*

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

*Youth Choir & Adult Choir ~ 8:00 PM*

*Adult Choir with Brass & Strings ~ 10:00 PM*

#### *Christmas Day Masses*

*Sunday, December 25, 2016*

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

#### *Octave Day of Christmas:*

*The Blessed Virgin Mary, The Mother of God*

*Vigil: Saturday, December 31, 2017 @ 5:00 PM*

*Sunday, January 1, 2017*

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

#### *Epiphany of the Lord*

*Vigil: Saturday, January 7, 2017 @ 5:00 PM*

*Sunday, January 8, 2017*

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



Don't miss the middle school  
Christmas play! Friday,  
December 9th at 7:00pm

#### **Saint Gregory the Great Catholic Community**

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