



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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The Messenger



EASTER 2016

The Lord Has Risen

We are midway through the Lenten season of grace, on the way to Easter. We follow Him who said, "I am the way...", in this Jubilee Year of Mercy. The Holy Father's new book is entitled "The Name of God is Mercy". "If today, you hear His voice harden not your hearts." Heb. 3:7 The mercy of God prevails, for it is He: "who knows and loves each individual and who knows what we need." Matthew 6: Just like the good Samaritan, God picks us up from the side of the road and binds up our wounds. This gives rise to the image of the church as a "field hospital". Or again the good shepherd who goes after the one that is lost, in the thicket—puts that one on his shoulder, to be carried back to koinonia—community.

It was St. Augustine who said, "Our hearts are restless until they rest in thee." So what is God's mercy, but God's willingness to descend into our chaos. Chaos means living in uncertainty, with nothing to hold on to and no security. At creation the Holy Spirit hovered over chaos, bringing order. In our chaos, God extends the hand of mercy in our uncertainty, to raise us up. Believing in mercy, says we are not alone, for we have Emmanuel—God with us.

The Holy Father says:

"Anyone who enters by the Holy Door, will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons and instills hope." "A clean heart create for me, O God." Psalm 51:12

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, may this special grace be a blessing to our parish family and individual members. We pray for renewed healing and transformation into an Easter people. With hearts made ready, may we hasten toward Easter with all the eagerness of Faith and Love.

If you have been away from the Sacraments, no matter how long, we invite you to come to Confession at our great communal celebration of mercy, with 15 priests, Tuesday, March 15th at 7:00 pm. What better way to meet the God of Mercy than the Sacrament of Mercy. Where else will you hear your sins are forgiven and go in peace? A young person after Mass said, "I want to come to that."

Do not let this year of mercy pass you by as we prepare for the glory of Easter. Christ descended into chaos and rose gloriously on Easter morning, when we proclaim, "The Lord is Risen, Alleluia!" and so have we.

Do join us in the Holy Week liturgies beginning with Palm Sunday and the Paschal Triduum. Included in the Triduum is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Holy Thursday from 8:30pm through Midnight. We are so grateful to the Liturgy Committee who inspire these liturgies of the Paschal Mystery.

Our parish Gala is Saturday, April 9, 2016. If you have not yet bought your tickets, I urge you to do so. Early bird prices end on March 20th. We thank Rowena Treitler and M.J. Wittman, and their families for the time they have given chairing this event.

We look forward to the Easter season when we will celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation with the RCIA Candidates and Elect and 3 First Communion Masses in April and Confirmation Mass on May 14th. Please pray for these students as they prepare to receive these sacraments.

On behalf of Fr. Ed, Fr. John, and the staff, I wish you the blessings of a glorious Easter.

Happy Easter!

Rev. Nicholas Clavin
Rev. Nicholas Clavin

From the Desk of Deacon Ron

As Pope Francis has decreed this Extra Ordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy we are invited to discover more deeply what mercy is. The Church often declares a themed focus to draw the People of God to a deeper understanding of the faith journey that we are on. It is a thematic aid to help us focus on some aspect or article of faith. This is reflected in several Gospel stories where Jesus would encounter fishermen after a long fruitless day or night of fishing only to challenge them to cast their nets into deeper water to find the rich catch they were seeking; Lk. 5:4 & Jn. 21:6.

Mercy is something that is talked about and prayed for, yet I judge not deeply understood or even believed. Mercy isn't a program it is an attitude or change of attitude. Mercy is a verb, an action that must be engaged in. The challenge and key to

understanding mercy is to look more deeply into ourselves and the acts of mercy that present themselves each day. As we become aware of these opportunities and engage in the practice of mercy, the deeper and deeper we come to understand mercy. It's kind of like opening Russian Matryoshka Nesting Dolls. As you open the first doll another appears until you reach the core, the smallest doll that dwells deep inside.

Mercy must be lived to understand it. As stated previously, it is a daily challenge. It is the very essence of love, to put the needs and cares of others before our own. To look past the faults, the failings and frailties of the other to see the other with unselfish eyes. To see with the eyes of a pure heart when our thoughts tell us otherwise. Like love, mercy

at its core is a decision, a decision to forgive even when forgiveness is undeserved.

Husbands and wives choose to love in unloving situations. Put your relationship ahead of your desire to be right. Put on humility and compassion even when your feelings urge you to lash out. These practices will lead us to deeper waters where there is a bountiful catch waiting. Only when we do this will we be able to understand the Father's abundant mercy for us even while we are sinners. Our response is to be merciful to others and to say, thank you to our Father.

May you be merciful as your Father is merciful.



Happy Easter from Faith Formation

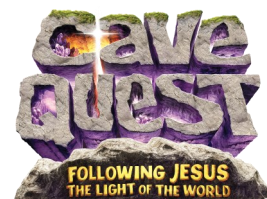
We are heading into our favorite time of year, First Eucharist Celebrations! The children have all been working so very hard to complete their workbooks and get their *Saying Hello* booklets all signed. We thank all of the leaders who take time on their Sundays to sign and

talk to these wonderful children. We will have 3 celebrations this year, April 10th, 17th and 24th, all of these at 2:00pm. This is such a special time for the children of the parish as they come to the table for the first time.

July 25th through 29th ending with Mass at noon on the 29th. Faith Formation registration for the 2016/2017 year will begin on April 30th/May 1st at all Masses in the gathering plaza and classes will begin in late September.



Our other great joy is planning for Vacation Bible School this summer. The theme is *Cave Quest-Following Jesus The Light Of The World*. VBS will run



Blessings,
Ginger
Marlin &
Judy Roitz

Saint Gregory The Great Catholic School



The highlight of school life in the past quarter was the formal visit of the WCEA (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) Visiting team. This group of esteemed educators spent three days at our school site, visiting classrooms, meeting with teachers, parents and students, to experience the culture of St. Gregory the Great Catholic School. Two main areas were identified as particular strengths of our school: Catholic Identity and Academic Excellence. The Visiting Team also validated the school Action Plan, which will be the focus of development and growth for the next five years. We look forward to getting the formal report and term of accreditation from the WCEA Commission in May.

If you are considering the gift of Catholic education for your child, we welcome you to contact the school office to schedule a tour and placement screening. Limited openings are available in most grade levels.

Students at St. Gregory continue to work diligently both within and outside the classroom as they strive for academic excellence. We congratulate the Academic Decathlon Team who represented our school at the Diocesan Academic Decathlon in March. What an amazing group who dedicated themselves to extra studies to prepare for this challenging event.



Students in grades 5-8 have joined Miss Girard in a Crochet Club for Charity. These young people, under the guidance of the teacher, offered their lunch time to learn to crochet, and will make crocheted blankets for Rady Children's Hospital.



Second Graders recently visited the Royon Museum of Paleontology in Escondido, where they learned about rocks, fossils and dinosaurs.



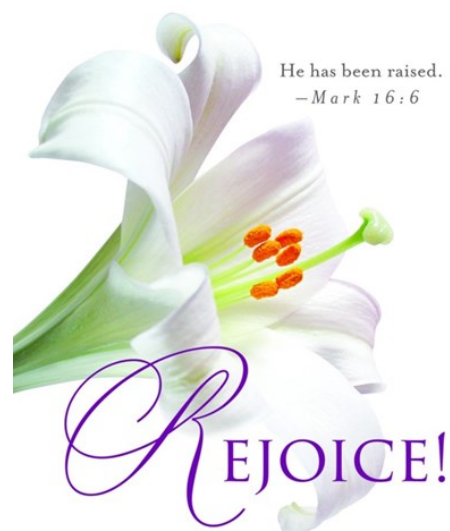
Teachers, Mr. Swan and Mr. Buckley faced-off in a Jump Rope challenge to raise funds for the American Heart Association. Students eagerly encouraged and cheered both teachers on!



St. Gregory the Great *Venetian Carnivale* Gala is on April 9, 2016 at the Estancia Hotel and Spa in La Jolla. Early Bird tickets at \$100.00 are available until March 20th. Only 400 tickets will be sold and they are going quickly! Tickets can be bought in the parish office and after Masses on the weekends of March 12/13 and April 2/3. For more information please visit www.stgg.org

Parish Calendar Highlights

- **Stations of the Cross** - every Friday during Lent at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- **Fish Fry** - every Friday during Lent at 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- **Parish Penance Service** – March 15th at 7p.m.
- **Chrism Mass** – Good Shepard - March 17th at 4:00 p.m.
- **Holy Week** – See Below
- **St. Gregory the Great Gala** – April 9, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.
- **New Parishioner Orientation** – April 10th at 12:00 p.m.
- **First Holy Communion**—April 10th at 2:00 p.m.
- **Grandparents Mass** – April 15th 10:30 a.m. at the school
- **First Holy Communion** – April 17th at 2:00 p.m.
- **First Holy Communion**—April 24th at 2:00 p.m.
- **Mass for the Sick**—May 7th at 10:00 a.m.
- **Confirmation**—May 14th at 10:00 a.m.



Holy Week & Easter Schedule

Parish Reconciliation Service

Tuesday, March 15th ~ 7:00pm

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Saturday, March 19, 2016 ~ 5:00PM

Sunday, March 20, 2016 ~ 7:00AM, 9:00AM, 11:00AM, & 5:00PM

Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper

March 24, 2016 ~ 7:00PM

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion

March 25, 2016

The Passion of Our Lord ~ 12:00PM

Stations of the Cross ~ 3:00PM

The Passion of Our Lord ~ 7:00PM

Holy Saturday Night: The Easter Vigil

March 26, 2016 ~ 8:00PM

Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of the Lord

March 27, 2016 ~ 7:00AM, Church only

Both 9:00AM & 11:00AM in the Church & Hall

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