



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



E A S T E R 2 0 1 7

The Lord Has Risen

We are still basking in the afterglow of the Transfiguration and the epic celebration of St. Patrick's Diocesan Celtic Mass on Saturday evening, Bishop McElroy presiding, and a fine representation of priests and Irish Religious sisters. We were further honored by the Deputy Prime Minister of Ireland, Frances Fitzgerald who was the Grand Marshall of the St. Patrick's Day Parade. The Vice Consul from San Francisco was also present.

All hail to the St. Gregory the Great Knights of Columbus, Bill Schemensky, Grand Knight, who hosted a magnificent full house Celtic dinner in the parish hall. Rene Trevino was an excellent MC for the festivities, which included the Irish step dancers from the Malone Academy and maintaining the Hilgeman

connection with a great band. Our own Mairtin de Cogain regaled us with Irish song and story. Both Bishop McElroy and the Deputy Prime Minister flavored the evening with reflections on the life of St. Patrick and the spread of the faith across the nations.

St. Patrick heard the call of God to go forth and bring the faith to the Irish people. It was this call the Irish people answered to go forth across 5 continents which at this time we celebrate as the faith of our ancestors. How can I not express deep gratitude to over 100 parishioners who responded to a similar call to participate in New Wineskins.

I invite you to receive the call to go forth and nurture your faith at the Parish Mission to be given by Fr. Brian Kelly,

much gratitude to him! In preparation for Easter, God calls us to the Sacrament of healing & forgiveness in the Lenten Penance service, March 28th at 7:00pm, with a multitude of confessors. The greatest of invitations is to enter into the fullness of the Paschal Mystery, in the unfolding of the Holy Week liturgies with entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and the unfolding of the Triduum, each day a part of the entire event, passion, death and resurrection.

On behalf of the clergy and staff, I wish you the blessings of a glorious Easter.

Happy Easter!

Rev. Nicholas Clavin

Rev. Nicholas Clavin
Pastor



From the Desk of Deacon Ron

Dear St. Gregory the Great Faith Family,

Each year the parish staff endeavors to be a support and enhance our faith journey through education and spiritual formation. While looking for more and better ways to provide these opportunities using older traditional means is still a viable and valued tool. One such tool is the Lenten Parish Mission. Each Lent the parish holds three consecutive days of themed spiritual reflection and instruction given by a qualified facilitator. These facilitators or presenters may be clergy, religious or laypersons.

The parish mission is a time to gather with other members of our faith family to listen, learn, reflect and share our joys and frustration, our successes and failures on our faith journey. It is a chance to regroup, reengage and move forward on our walk with our Lord and with the community.

This Lent we are very pleased to have Fr. Brian Kelly as our presenter for this Lenten mission journey. Fr. Kelly is the newest member of our presiding team of priests here at St. Gregory the Great and we are very grateful to him for his willingness to guide us through this mission.

Please consider joining us this year to follow Christ with intent and resolve. Your presence will enhance the quality and value of this time tested expression of faith and love.

For information in detail about our Lenten Parish Mission with Fr. Kelly please see our website at stgg.org.

Lenten blessings,

Deacon Ron



Happy Easter from Faith Formation

This spring and summer is a busy time for Faith Formation. We are preparing students for the sacrament of First Eucharist on April 30, May 7 and 21. The children have been preparing to celebrate this sacrament for the past 2 years and are now ready to come to the table of Christ for the first time. We will begin registration for the 2017/2018 faith formation year April 22/23rd weekend at all Masses and will have open registration during the week in the office and once a month at registration fairs throughout the summer. Classes are set to begin the end of September. We will also be offering Vacation Bible

School again this summer, July 24-

28th from 8:45-12:30. We have

chosen the "Maker Fun Factory" program that will focus on how each of us were "Created by God, Built for a Purpose". Come join in the fun!



Blessings, Ginger Marlin & Judy Roitz



YOUTH MINISTRY



Confirmation / One Holy Catholic Apostolic Church

On March 5th, our year one confirmation students learned about the Four Marks of the Church: One, Holy, Catholic Apostolic. As an opening activity we asked each small group to design and construct their own Catholic church.



St. Gregory the Great **Havana Nights** Gala is on May 6, 2017 at the San Diego Marriott Marquis and Marina. Early Bird tickets at \$115.00 are available until April 9th, after that date they will be \$150.00. Only 400

tickets will be sold and will go quickly! Reserve your own table of 10 now. Tickets can be bought in the parish office and after Masses on the weekends of March 18/19, 25/26 and April 1/2, 8/9 & 22/23. Don't forget we need bottles of wine (valued at \$25.00+) for the Wall of Wine and we continue to accept live and silent auction donations. Wine can be dropped off at the parish or school offices. For more information please visit www.stgg.org

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Who is a Christian steward? We are! The U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Stewardship defines stewardship as *"One who receives God's gifts gratefully cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord."* In like manner, stewardship is an expression of discipleship, where we learn to live as Christ would in our daily lives.

Here at Saint Gregory the Great we have been busy *expressing* our stewardship and discipleship in many ways!

- Our ministries practice wonderful stewardship all the time. To call out a few that really stand out, we have our Sister Parish Outreach ministry that supports Our Lady of Angels with food, supplies, and monetary support. Our Rosary Makers are busy making thousands of rosaries to send to missions throughout the world. And our Faith Formation and Youth Ministry leaders are busy teaching and leading the next generation of good stewards to take over and exceed the work we're doing now for our future!
- As responsible caretakers of our parish campus we will soon be installing solar panels in the east parking lot to support our substantial need for power and reduce expenses. The asphalt will also be resurfaced.
- You may have also noticed that our church, parish office and parish hall have received the tender care of Tim Meissner's team with new paint and varnish in many areas. And soon we will begin repairing many of the concrete pillars that have shown wear as the iron core deteriorates. This work will hopefully be supported by the proceeds of our upcoming Gala.
- Even our stewardship efforts with the *Annual Catholic Appeal* are going to great lengths to benefit the universal church and beyond. The generosity of our community is assisting students with tuition assistance, ministering to those in prison, supporting seminarians and retired priests, and in partnership with Catholic Charities we are helping to serve millions of people a year, regardless of their religious, social, or economic backgrounds.

During this season of lent, how will you challenge yourself to live out stewardship in your life today? How is Jesus calling you to live as he would?

Nichol Swift



Left to Right: Youth group at the Life Walk with Bishop McElroy.
Sister Parish Outreach food drive.
Sister Parish Outreach blanket drive.

YOUTH MINISTRY Continued



Confirmation Retreat February 17-19, 2017// We loved because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19

The theme of our year two confirmation retreat was “Agape,” the love of God. We heard inspiring faith talks from our core team leaders, spent time in prayer and worship in adoration of Jesus in the Eucharist and shared in our faith in small group. It was a retreat for the books!



LA Youth Day 2017 // What Are You Waiting For?

In February our youth group traveled to Anaheim for the annual Los Angeles Youth Day. The theme of youth day was “What Are You Waiting For?” We heard awesome talks by Roy Petitfils, Mark Hart and heard our old friends Emmaus Blvd play for a crowd of over 5,000 participants.

NEW WINESKINS



Dr. Dan Ebener led us in a pastoral planning morning on Saturday, February 11, 2017. Over 100 parishioners gathered to discern the future of St. Gregory the Great.



Strategic Planning Steps:

Identify your strengths, weaknesses, obstacles, & threats.
Gather Data
Establish goals
Identify action steps
Evaluate & implement
Adopt a plan



The 3 emerging goals are:

1. How to engage more parishioners.
2. Evangelization/Outreach
3. Young Adults

PRESCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PICTURES



St. Gregory the Great Catholic School



St. Gregory the Great Catholic School

March 2017



St. Gregory the Great Catholic School competed in the 21st Annual Diocese of San Diego Academic Decathlon on March 04, 2017, held at Cathedral Catholic High School. The 10-member team consisted of three eighth graders, Ella (team captain), Emma, and Lauren; five seventh graders, Aisling, Isabella, Olivia, Ethan, and Josie; and two sixth graders, Patrick and Z. Harrison, in addition to two seventh grade alternates, Lael and Liam. Overall, St. Gregory the Great Catholic School placed seventh out of twenty-two teams with several students earning individual awards. The following students placed fourth in their category: Isabella (Fine Arts), Patrick (Math) and Z. Harrison (Science), while Emma earned sixth place in Writing. All twelve members of



the team have been diligently preparing for this competition since mid-September, honing their logic and teamwork skills. Way to Go, Guardian Decathletes!

Our eighth graders guide and model for their kindergarten buddies during school liturgies. We attended Ash Wednesday liturgy with St. Gregory parishioners. Fr. Nick reminded students of Lenten practices; Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving.



Mr. Rick Kneeshaw, school benefactor and grandad, was a guest speaker for junior high students recently. He shared important facts about polio and heightened student awareness about living with disabilities. This presentation had a major impact on students, reminding them to be grateful for all God's blessings in life.

The Junior Youth Choir is a wonderful ministry of the school and parish. We are grateful to Mrs. Cavallo and the choir members for elevating liturgy to a new level by raising our voices in song!



St. Gregory the Great Catholic School Cont.

Congratulations to the St. Gregory the Great JV Flag Football team who were undefeated this season. They earned first place as JV Football County Champions and keep the Dick Serrano Perpetual Trophy this year.



There has been an element of “Time travel” at the school lately. Fourth graders enjoyed spending a day in the life of a gold miner in 1849 during “Gold Rush Day”. Activities included panning for gold, cashing in at the Assayer’s Office, and paying for a shave and lunch with their profits. Fifth graders participated in Colonial Day as they traveled back in time to experience what life was like for the early colonists.. Our teachers, Camille Girard (Gr. 5) and Maureen Griffin (4) go the extra mile to make learning fun and provide exciting hands-



on learning experiences for their lucky students.

Second graders participated in *Read Across America* in celebration of Dr. Seuss birthday. Teacher, Jennifer Miller lead the students through many fun activities and parent volunteers read a selection of Dr. Seuss stories to the students.

Construction continues to move forward at the school as God blesses us with dry weather. The retaining wall for the building foundation is currently under construction.

We continue along our Lenten Journey focusing on prayer, fasting, and alms-giving. As we prepare our hearts for Easter we wish all parishioners every blessing and joy for the Easter season.



Celtic Mass and Dinner



Fr. Nick, Msgr. Gallagher, Fr. Brian Corcoran, Msgr. Eamonn Llyng, Fr. John Gubbins, Fr. John Grace, OSA, Fr. Brian Kelly & Msgr. Donal Sheahan were on hand to concelebrate the Mass with the Bishop. Deacon Ron served as Deacon.



Thank you, *Forrest Photography*, for all your wonderful pictures!!!



Celtic Mass and Dinner



L-R: Bishop Robert McElroy, Fr. Nick, Frances Fitzgerald (Deputy Prime Minister of Ireland), & Colum Hatchell (Vice Consul, Consulate General of Ireland/San Francisco)



Do you recognize these two Hilgeman girls? Nora & Evelyn!

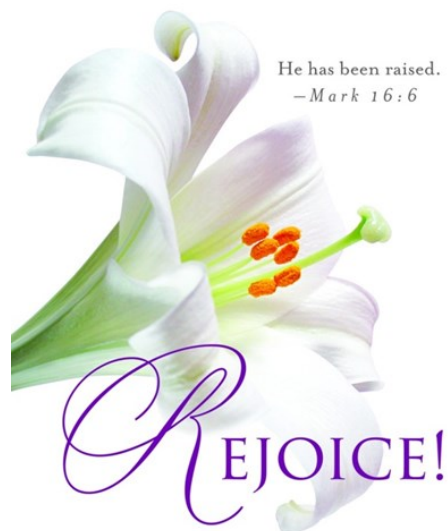


The band, *Club 7*, was fantastic.



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 Mission** – March 20,21,22 at 9am & 7p.m.
- **Parish Penance Service** - March 28th at 7p.m.
- **Chrism Mass** – Good Shepard - April 6th at 4:00 p.m.
- **Holy Week** – See Below
- **First Holy Communion**—April 30th at 2:00 p.m.
- **Confirmation** - May 2nd at 5:00 p.m.
- **Grandparents Mass** – May 5th 10:30 a.m. at the school
- **Mass for the Sick** - May 6th at 10:00 a.m.
- **St. Gregory the Great Gala** - May 6th @ 5:00pm
- **First Holy Communion** – May 7th at 2:00 p.m.
- **First Holy Communion**—May 21st at 2:00 p.m.



Holy Week & Easter Schedule

Parish Reconciliation Service

Tuesday, March 28, 2017 ~ 7:00pm

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Saturday, April 8, 2017 ~ 5:00PM

Sunday, April 9, 2017 ~ 7:00AM, 9:00AM, 11:00AM, & 5:00PM

Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper

April 13, 2017 ~ 7:00PM

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion

April 14, 2017

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

April 15, 2017 ~ 8:00PM

Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of the Lord

April 16, 2017 ~ 7:00AM, Church only

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

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