

The Messenger



EASTER 2018

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,

I take this opportunity to invite you and your family to join us in faith and worship during the Sacred Liturgies of Holy week. Here at Saint Gregory the Great the nature of our ritual celebration of the Paschal Mystery bears unique characteristics of parish tradition.

The Holy Thursday Liturgy and the Institution of the Eucharist

One of our beloved traditions is the washing of feet, which involves all parishioners, young and old, in full active participation. "Do this in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19), Jesus is saying to us that when you do this, remember me. This is Jesus being there for us, so we can be there for Him. In the gospels Jesus tells Peter to Shepherd his flock by being of service to others. At the end of the Last Supper, He models that service and washes his disciple's feet as if to say, 'what I have done, so you must also do'. As He is the Bread of Life who nourishes us with His Real Presence, we must be washers of feet. In essence, He is saying He will always be there for us, so that we can be there for each other. This is all about Eucharistic service and a love so profound you can almost taste it.

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion

After the Last Supper, Jesus goes with the disciples to the garden of Gethsemane, an oil press in the garden of olives, to pray...and the passion begins. Peter, James, and John fall asleep; they cannot wait even one hour with Him. Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss and the

soldiers arrest Him. During the Good Friday liturgy, the Gospel of John recounts the passion, followed by the oldest prayers of intercessions in which we pray for the Jewish people and their growth in faith. We must all take responsibility for Jesus' death. In another unique tradition here at Saint Gregory the Great, we venerate the cross by passing it over the heads of the congregation. A very moving experience indeed! Jesus carried the cross bar (the horizontal portion of the cross) to Golgotha. Golgotha was an old stone quarry used to build the temple walls. The rock left behind was full of cracks and looked like a skull. The vertical piece of the cross was placed between these cracks. "The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone of our faith," (1 Peter 2:7). There Jesus was crucified between two criminals; a bad man and a bad thief who had been caught. (We recall his birth in Bethlehem when he was between the shepherds; always with the poor and the lowly.) Ultimately, Jesus was laid in the tomb by Joseph of Arimathea. Good Friday is called *good* because on Easter morning Jesus rose from the dead.

Holy Saturday Night: The Easter Vigil

On Holy Saturday we enter a tomb-like church of great absence, similar to how it feels to see the empty chair of a departed loved one. We feel it. As the evening progresses, we experience fire and light along with the splashing waters of chaos, which through the Holy Spirit become

the splashing waters of baptism. Alleluia, Christ is Risen! Just as our own fire is lit by Joe Duffy, we recall St. Patrick who lit the Paschal Fire on the hill of Slane in Ireland. The Druid Priest said, "Unless we quench that fire tonight, it will never be extinguished."...Nor was it. The fire of our faith burns brightly.

In our RCIA Candidates and Elect, we rejoice in the Baptismal celebration of new life, reception into full communion with the church, and in Confirmation. We also renew our own Baptismal promises, at all the Easter Masses, to be witnesses of the resurrection.

Let me express deep gratitude to God for creating signs of new life among us, and gratitude to you for your sacrificial response to our offertory increase campaign and the Annual Catholic Appeal. I also have deep gratitude for the new life of our new preschool and thank God for the return of Deacon Ron and Rebecca Krawczak. Please continue your prayers for Stephanie Lower in recuperation.

In closing, I invite you to experience God's loving mercy & unconditional love in the Lenten Penance Service on Monday, March 19th at 7:00pm in preparation for Easter. We will have 18 priests to hear your confessions.

May the Grace of the Risen Lord bring new life to each and every family this Easter!

Rev. Nicholas Clavin

Rev. Nicholas Clavin, Pastor

From the Desk of Deacon Ron

Easter 2018

Here we are, another Easter! What is Easter to us? For some it is special Sunday (known as Fun-day for many) celebrating niceties i.e. colorful baskets filled with decorated eggs, chocolate bunnies and marshmallow chicks. On the surface there is a warm fuzziness about Easter like frosting on a cake. Yet, like a cake there is more to it than the frosting. What is the substance of Easter? Some may say it comes out of suffering and penance, prayer, fasting and alms giving. While these are the things that lead to resurrection it is so much more. It is personal, it is intimate, it must be felt.

I was talking with one of my daughters-in-law recently who is days away from giving birth to their second child. I was asking about her discomfort at times and the hardships of the final days of pregnancy. Then I asked her about that moment when the baby is born, when labor is done and the final push has past, what is it like to hold that child for the first time? What is that moment like, to cuddle this new life that just moments before was part of you? Her reply was a look, an expression that came over her whole body. It took her from where we were to that moment that only a mother can know. There were no words needed, nor are there words that can describe what could only be felt; that is RESURRECTION, that is EASTER!

Too often we get caught up in doing religious practices. Like pregnancy it is not something one does, it is something one experiences, something that becomes part of you. Jesus, speaking of His return did not say, when the Son of Man comes will he find religion on earth. Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes will he find faith on earth?" (Lk 18:8). Please do not misunderstand me, our religious practice is important but it is a discipline to help develop a deeper faith. It is what sustains us at times. But, when the day of our meeting Jesus face to face comes, we will not be asked how many times we went to Mass, how many rosaries did we say nor did we pray 10,000 memorares like steps to a Fitbit. At the final judgment Jesus will say welcome to my Father's kingdom, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me." (Mt 25:35-36). This is not something that we must go out of our way to seek out. These opportunities surround us daily, in our families, at work, in school. Wherever we are there is a need to see Christ and to serve Him. Feed someone with an act of kindness, quench the thirst of someone who needs affirmation, cloth the one who has been stripped of their self-worth, bind the wounds of those who have been cut deeply by the words of others and visit those who suffer the imprisonment of depression or addiction.

If the practice of our faith does not include actual service to others it is for not. It is in the service of others that we see and touch the risen Lord. Like the embrace of a new mother, Christ will embrace us in these moments of resurrection. May your Easter season bring about the joy of new birth in Christ.

Deacon Ron



MUSIC

The Music Ministry at St. Gregory the Great is actively preparing to celebrate Easter with you, hoping that our music will help lead you closer to God as you join us in lifting your voices in praise! Our Adult Choir especially is looking forward to celebrating the Triduum Liturgies. We rehearse each Wednesday night at 7pm. If you like to sing and have been looking for a smaller faith community in which to get involved, consider joining the Adult Choir! Rehearsals in preparation for Easter are now closed, but will open up again after Easter. Our Youth Choir has been growing and is always looking for new members as well! The Youth Choir will sing in the Hall at the 9:00am Easter Sunday Mass and their young adult members will lead in the Hall at 11am. Our Jr. Youth Choir has also been busy busy busy preparing for Easter and First Eucharist Masses, but enjoys having fun on our beautiful campus! We pray you have a joyful Easter as we celebrate together!



SAVE-THE-DATE

Saturday, May 12, 2018 • US Grant Hotel

Contact: Lynda Rowin • 619-261-5870 • lynda.rowin@sbcglobal.net

Come and enjoy select wines paired with incredible food prepared by award-winning chefs. Mark your calendar, and let's see how YOU can get involved...

- **Donations:** Bring your best bottles - valued at +\$25 - to donate for this fabulous fundraiser! Drop them off at the Parish or School Office, or arrange pickup.
- **Underwriting Opportunities:** You choose exactly where your donation is used at the Gala!
- **Auction Items:** Vacation homes, theater tickets, exciting experiences - to name a few of the things we'd love to include in our live and silent auctions!

Gala Sponsors will be recognized in the church bulletin and program. We hope you will consider our top tier sponsorship levels which make a HUGE impact on our event's success and bottom line!

Your generous donations ARE the difference! Thank you in advance for helping us raise funds for our school and church.

Year Two Confirmation Retreat - February 16 –18, 2018

On February 16th-18th our 2nd Year Confirmation Candidates along with their catechists and core team leaders participated in the 2nd Year Confirmation Retreat at Oakbridge Camp in Ramona. We had 181 total participants with 106 candidates and 49 teen leaders and 26 adults. It was a beautiful weekend spent in faith building and fun! The candidates spent time listening to faith talks, reflecting and sharing in their small groups, participating in Confession and Mass, and many more faith enriching activities. We are so grateful to all of our leaders for giving of their time and talents to put together this great experience!

Coming up on April 23rd, our 2nd Year Candidates will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop McElroy. These candidates have spent the past 2 years growing in faith and preparing for the Sacrament. We are blessed to witness as these students will make this next step in their faith journey!

Looking ahead to our Summer activities, we once again will have students participating in the Stuebenville Youth Conference at USD on July 27th -29th 2018. This is a weekend long conference where teens will spend time listening to amazing catholic speakers, participating in Eucharistic adoration, confession, and Mass, and spending time sharing their experiences with their parish small group. This summer, we will also be sending our Core Team leaders to the Diocesan Leadership Camp, Camp Emmaus at Whispering Winds. Each year, this has been a wonderful opportunity for our parish teen leaders to not only develop their leadership skills, but also strengthen their faith and grow in community with their peers.

Suzanne Guzzardo
Rebecca Krawczak
Youth Ministry





Lift up
your
Hearts in
Praise!



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 getting their Saying Hello booklets 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 15, 22 and 29th 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 to receive Jesus.

Our other great joy is planning for Vacation Bible School, this summer the theme is: Shipwrecked- Rescued by Jesus. VBS will run July 30 through August 3rd with an ending Mass at noon on the 3rd. Registration for Faith Formation for the 2018/2019 class year and VBS will begin on April 26th online. Classes will begin in late September or early October.

Blessings, Ginger
Marlin & Janet
Malacane



St. Gregory the Great Catholic School & Preschool



It is with great joy that we announce the opening of St. Gregory the Great Catholic Preschool. We are so blessed to have a wonderful Preschool Director, Amy Igou, and an amazing team of experienced teachers who are committed to providing a loving, nurturing, faith-based experience to the youngest members of our community. It is with Gratitude and Joy to see our loyal and patient preschool families who have travelled the journey with us. We are truly blessed!

Did you know...The first day of preschool was on Monday, February 26. Our excited little friends and their parents eagerly waited for the doors to open and immediately felt right at home.



Did You Know...Students at St. Gregory join parishioners for all school Masses. Four buses transport them back to school following the 8:00am liturgy.

We are truly blessed to be able to celebrate liturgy in our beautiful parish church!

Did you know... St. Gregory the Great Catholic Preschool offers:

- Faith-based, nurturing environment
- Exploration learning and innovative curriculum
- Social and emotional skills in a safe, encouraging, and loving environment.
- Innovative playground themed on the California Missions

Now Enrolling for 3-year-old, 4-year-old and Junior Kindergarten- possibility of expanding to 2 -year-old program, if need presents.



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

St. Gregory Academic Decathlon Team participated in the Diocesan Academic Decathlon at Mater Dei High School on Saturday, March 3. We congratulate this wonderful group of students Head Coach, Darlene Howard, and assistant coaches, Raquel Oriondo and Jessica Collins, for their dedication and commitment to preparing for this rigorous competition. Twenty-four teams, including 240 participants as well as alternate team members, gathered in the Mater Dei gym for two team competitions (Logic and Super Quizzes). Eight students represented in the individual categories of Religion, Literature, English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Fine Arts, and Current Events. The writing competition had been held two weeks prior to the main event.

Our warmest congratulations go to this wonderful group of Guardians who placed fourth overall in this Diocesan competition!



Did You know... Stewardship is alive and well at St. Gregory the Great Catholic School.

- Fourth graders donated and assembled "Homeless Helper" bags to support the homeless in San Diego.
- Sixth graders, put stewardship and service into action, by organizing and holding a very successful Book & Toy Drive to provide gift bags to children in Rady Children's Hospital Cancer Unit.
- Second graders, set up a lemonade stand in their neighborhood. They designated the Preschool as the beneficiary of their efforts.



Did you know... St. Gregory the Great Catholic School and Preschool is now enrolling for the 2018-2019 school year.

Schedule a tour and meet the principal, Maeve O'Connell at office@stggcs.org (858) 397-1290 or preschool director, Amy Igou, aigou@stggcs.org (858) 397-1291.

Parish Calendar Highlights

- **Stations of the Cross** - Fridays of Lent, 11:00am & 7:00pm
- **Fish Fry** - Fridays of Lent, 5:30 - 7:00pm
- **Parish Penance Service** - March 19, 7:00pm
- **Chrism Mass** – Good Shepherd Parish, March 22, 4:00pm
- **Holy Week** – See Below
- **Mass of Hope** - April 10, 6:00pm
- **First Holy Communion** - April 15, 22, & 29, 2:00pm
- **Confirmation** - April 23, 5:00pm
- **Mass for the Sick** - May 5, 10:00am
- **St. Gregory the Great Gala** - May 12, 5:00pm



Holy Week & Easter Schedule

Parish Reconciliation Service

Monday, March 19, 2018 ~ 7:00pm

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ 5:00pm

Sunday, March 25, 2018 ~ 7:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am, & 5:00pm

Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper

March 29, 2018 ~ 7:00pm

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion

March 30, 2018

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 31, 2018 ~ 8:00pm

Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of the Lord

April 1, 2018

7:00am, Church only

Both 9:00am & 11:00am, Church & Hall

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