



# The Messenger

NOVEMBER 2014

## ST. GREGORY THE GREAT CATHOLIC PARISH

- We are a Stewardship Parish, recognizing that all we have comes from God and as good Stewards we are called to share these gifts
- There are over 3,100 families in our Parish and we are growing by 15 new families per month

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Dear Parishioners,

The grandest feast of the Season is upon us. While our thoughts take us back to the traditional scene of pilgrims and Indians sharing a Thanksgiving meal of wild turkey, it also leads us to anticipate a loving feast of family and friends around a table of full and plenty. That grand tradition of an anticipatory parish Mass keeps our focus on gratitude to God for our choice graces and blessings, which leads our parish to generous outreach to those who go without.

We have much to be grateful for in the generous response of families who have pledged \$1.3 million + toward the Heritage, Hospitality, Hope Campaign to provide a new preschool and science lab to keep us competitive going forward. It also provides a much needed hall expansion for a parish this size. As we celebrated the funeral of our beloved Tim Hilgeman, we were unable to facilitate a crowd of 500 who sat down to a meal at his home parish. This was the original design at its building in face of a shortage of funds. It also provides for more Faith Formation classrooms and a Faith Formation building along with a nursery, affording extra meeting space. A parish community is alive, only if it continues to grow. If you have not already made your pledge, which can be remitted over 3 years or more, we ask you to prayerfully consider it now. While this involves finance, it is primarily a faith decision, and will always affect our faith, giving each parishioner true ownership of their parish. Do please remember this growth venture for our great parish, in your prayers.

I would certainly be remiss if I did not pay tribute to the great ongoing generosity of this faith community through the Sunday offertory. This is truly sacrificial, with an average weekly contribution last month of over \$33,000 per week. May the good Lord reward your great generosity, a generosity that flows out of an awareness that all our gifts come from God.

We express our sincere gratitude to Brian DeWitt, whose fine servant leadership is about to come to full term. His outstanding leadership has yielded very fruitful years for the Pastoral Stewardship Council. His successor will be Michael Kielty, and our prayers will go with him too. The parish is also grateful to Gene Fantano and John Maguire (both Finance Council) for their fine leadership of the Capital Campaign, still ongoing.

On behalf of this faith community, I wish to express our deepest gratitude to the family of Tim Hilgeman, for sharing him with us for the past 22 years. He was a gifted steward of parish music ministry and was devoted to its excellence. While he is a great loss to our community, we extend our sincere sympathy to his beloved Bernadette and their children, as well as to his dear mother, Rosa and his siblings. May Perpetual Light shine upon him and may he rest in peace. During Tim's illness the torch was carried by the able John and Barbara Chicca, helping sustain quality liturgical music. God Bless them, for they have committed to continue to lead our music, as the parish searches for a successor. We are deeply grateful.

I commend to you the leader of the parish Advent Mission, December 8-10, Fr. Joe Creedon, national presenter. The theme is *Parish – how do we make it grow?* You will enjoy his great experience and deep spirituality. It's hard to believe but the Advent Season is upon us.

Some 165 were on Confirmation retreat in Whispering Winds. It was a real joy to have them join the Sunday 5:00pm Mass community. I congratulate the parents of these fine young Confirmation candidates.

I take this opportunity to wish you and your family and friends a Happy Thanksgiving.

*Rev. Nicholas Clavin*

Fr. Nicholas Clavin, Pastor



Dear Saints of God,

## Deacon Ron

Yes, I mean you! Though it will be closer to Thanksgiving when you read this, it is now All Hallows Eve with tomorrow being All Saints Day. Reflecting on the saints, we call to mind the great Catholic hall of famers who have gone before us. We envision the saints as these holy men and women who have lead extraordinarily faithful lives, who have made the grade. We hear stories of great heroism and surpassing great trials. For us who live common, busy, everyday lives this seems unreal. Yet, if you were to ask any of the great hall of famers how they did what they did they would reply, "I am not worthy to be called a saint". Which is a true statement, no one is worthy. There is no one worthy but Christ.

So what then is a saint? Very simply put, a saint is someone who has allowed themselves to be open to the Holy Spirit so that they reflect the image and likeness of Christ. Again, it is Christ who is holy. Many of you have heard the story of the young child in Catholic School who when asked who the saints are, referred to the stained glass windows in the Church building, "they are the people that the light shines through". Simple yet theologically profound, they are the people that have allowed the light of Christ to shine through them. It is Christ in us that is holy. Sinner though we are it is the sinner whom Christ has chosen to be the window with which he shines through. It is by virtue of our baptism that we are united to Christ who sanctifies us, we do not sanctify ourselves.

In a presentation I recently heard the speaker was telling a story about St. Pope Pius X who had gathered the College of Cardinals for a synod. The Pope asked them a simple question, "What do we need to enhance the life of Church?" One Cardinal spoke up and said, "We need to build more Churches." The Pope said, "No." Another spoke and said, "We need more priests." The Pope said, "No." "What we need are holy lay Men and Women, that is what the Church needs", said the Pope.

It is our baptismal call to be a saint, to be sanctified, to be born again, to be a twin of Christ, to be the stained glass; in our homes, to our families, in our jobs, in our schools, at the soccer game or the club meeting, in public, in private and yes, even when we are driving.

Every journey starts with one step, take the step today to live like the saint you are. Accept the invitation of Christ that came through the Church in your baptism.

Happy All Saints Day!

Shalom, Deacon Ron



## Heritage-Hospitality-Hope

The Story of St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church is a story of faith, courage, sacrifice and common dedication that began in August 1985. Our founding parishioners sacrificed to hand on the faith to the generations that followed them to our Parish. Looking back, it is hard to envision that the early Scripps Ranch faith community of 200 households has now grown to 3,100 households over the past 30 years. Throughout this time, our Parish family has served not only the needs of our fellow Parishioners but also the needs of our community through 55 ministries and in emergencies such as during the Cedar Fire.

The blessing of continued growth precipitates the need to expand facilities on our Church campus and Catholic School campus starting in the fall of this year. We have entered into a loan with the Knights of Columbus for \$4,000,000 to increase the size of the Parish Hall by 50% , add new Faith Formation and Nursery Buildings on our Church campus and add a Preschool and six new classrooms on the School campus. These funds from the Knights of Columbus also allows us to refinance our current debt.

Please prayerfully consider supporting the campaign to serve the needs of our rapidly growing Parish. All financial support is tax deductible in our faith and future.

Parish Hall Expansion, looking South from the Parish Office



St. Gregory The Great Catholic School, new classrooms including Preschool rooms



## St. Gregory The Great Catholic School

### A New School Year Begins

St. Gregory the Great Catholic School celebrated our sixth year anniversary with the opening of school on Tuesday, August 25. Our school community has grown to accommodate 239 students and one hundred fifty families. Curriculum enrichment programs this year include foreign language (Spanish (Sing 'n Speak Spanish®); Accelerated Reader; Math Friendly (a math enhancement program); Second Step Curriculum® (character development and student empowerment); Art Program (Arts Attack ®). After school programs include volleyball, flag football, basketball, soccer, cheer, Monart art program and instrument to include piano, guitar and voice. Student services at St. Gregory the Great Catholic School include a reading resource specialist teacher, the A.M./P.M. Extended Daycare Program, Hot Lunch Program and a School Counselor.

The summer months were busy at the school campus. Projects accomplished include:

Installation of the Stations of the Cross (generously donated by the Rosary Makers Ministry)

Installation of Wi-Fi server and access points in all classrooms

Upgrade of all student and teacher computers to Windows 7 operating system (thanks to all who supported Gala 2014)

Replenishment of 20,000 lbs. of rubber mulch in the playgrounds area



### Stewardship Projects

**October:** Our students participated in the second Annual **Great Quarter Race** on October 30. After gathering quarters all month, the children lined up their quarters along the promenade. It was so inspiring to see them excited about GIVING on a day (Halloween) when receiving (candy) is the focus of the day! Each quarter donated provides one meal for a hungry child- our students provided 6,101 meals, up 36% from last year. The \$1,525.25 raised will be sent to Cross Catholic Outreach in support of their efforts to feed the hungry around the world. We were much honored this month to partner with Dr. Maulik for the Halloween Candy Buy-Back program. We received \$1 for every pound of candy; the candy is shipped to our troops overseas and we send our monetary donation to the Missionary Childhood Association. Win-Win for everyone!

**November:** Partnering with St. Gregory Sister Parish Outreach ministry, our Student Council will sponsor a school wide Food Drive. Our goal is to donate 1,000 cans of food in support of Our Lady of Angels Food Pantry. On November 14 we honored our Veterans with a *Jeans for the Troops Day*. Students will donate \$1 minimum to wear jeans in lieu of uniform. All proceeds go to the GI GO Fund in support of Veteran needs, including jobs, housing, and health care.

### Guest Speakers

It is always an honor to welcome guest speakers to our school community. We were blessed with our annual visit with Sr. Aurora Lopez-Ornelas, Director for the Diocesan Office for Vocations, who inspired our students to listen to God's call in our lives. Sr. Eva Rodriguez, SJS, shared a multimedia presentation on missionary life in Ecuador, reminding us to answer the call to be missionaries through prayer and sharing.

### Attitude of Gratitude

We are so grateful for all our blessings! We are grateful for the precious time we shared with Tim Hilgeman as the music teacher at our school. He was much loved and will be greatly missed. We thank all our school families and parishioners, who, in a spirit of true stewardship, made the Fall Festival such an amazing parish community event. We continue to pray for God's blessings in our ministry of Catholic education.

## Fall Festival

Our Fall Festival was once again a resounding success thanks to the leadership of Erin Ferguson, the 250 volunteers and our sponsors. We hope you were able to attend this event including Mass on the Grass on Saturday night October 11. This event supports both our school and Parish community with an estimated attendance of XX?

### Thank you to our sponsors:

Tjung-Ling & Roselynn Ho

McKewon Foundation

Rich & Idalith Santiago (Sunbelt Rentals)

Derrick & Maybelline Cui

Frank & Paulette Deniston

David & Kelly Ball

Boy Scout Troop 616

Ava & C.J. Mackinder

Paul & Michelle Melancon

Ernie & Susan Webster

Dave Armstrong-Mammoth Condo

Darren & Deborah Solomon-Kid Ventures



The Hoffman Team-Bryan & Rachel

Nigidula Family

Wisniew Financial Group

Frank & Catherine Barrack

Paul & Valerie Nalbandian

Roger & Noelle Barno

Ulrich & Sonja Krauss

Andrew & Kathleen McIntosh

Nady Family

William & Sylvia Zobel

Karen Kuhn-Creative Circus Graphics



## Parish Calendar

November 26	Thanksgiving Mass 7pm
December 4-5	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
December 5	Lessons and Carols 7pm
December 5-6	Christmas Tree Pick Up at the Church parking lot (sponsored by our Youth Ministry)
December 8-10	Advent Parish Mission at the Church 9am or 7pm
December 12	Christmas Play 7pm
December 15	Parish Advent Penance Service 7pm
December 20-21	Adopt-A-Family Donation Drop Off at Parish Hall
December 24-25	Christmas Liturgy (see details below)



## Christmas Liturgy Schedule

Christmas Eve	December 24 Masses 4pm, 6pm, 8pm, 10pm
Christmas Day	December 25 Masses 7:30am, 9am, 11am
Vigil Mass for Mary, Mother of God	December 31 Mass 5pm
Mass for Mary, Mother of God	January 1 Masses 8am, 12pm



### St. Gregory The Great Catholic Church

11451 Blue Cypress Drive  
San Diego, CA 92131



Phone: 858-653-3540

Fax: 858-653-3550

E-mail: [informtion@stgg.org](mailto:informtion@stgg.org)

