



**ST. GREGORY
THE GREAT
CATHOLIC
PARISH**

- Our Parish has over 50 ministries serving the Parish and local 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
- There are over 3,000 families in our Parish and we are growing by 15 new families per month

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The Messenger

SEPTEMBER 13, 2013

Dear Parishioners

"By their fruits you will know them." Matthew 7:16

The last rose of Summer signals the fall of the leaf and, for me, the grandest Season of the year. Autumn connotes the change of colors and a season of fruitfulness. It's what takes people to New England for pale yellows and hectic reds, while out west it's rivaled by the translucent yellow of the waning Aspens or fields of ripening pumpkins.

Appropriately, we mark the Season with our parish Fall Festival on October 12th on the school campus at Stonebridge. Our own Erin Ferguson and her team are making preparations with children's booths, entertainment, and food. Mass on the Grass at 5:00pm will be followed by Phil's BBQ dinner. It causes one to salivate at the thought of it. I'm sure your help would be appreciated. Do please note: No Mass in the church on Saturday October 12th.

At this time, Jenny Quimpo is leading our best efforts to renew our Pictorial Parish Directory. I strongly encourage you to participate in this unique community

builder by having your picture taken for our directory. The directory is one of the most useful instruments in parish ministry. Not only will it include updated family portraits but also the fruits of ministry in action. It has been 7 years since our last directory and children who were 10 years old are preparing for college, it is time to update. All participants will receive a portrait and a copy of the new directory. Simply go to www.stgg.org to sign up.

Faith Formation has registered approximately 500 students to date and we encourage the remaining families to register their sons and daughters in K-8 for their formation in the faith. We are also looking for some generous parishioners to share their faith as classroom teachers. It has its own reward. God bless those already signed up. We also appreciate those serving as Confirmation Catechists.

St. Gregory the Great Catholic School welcomes 224 students this year, an increase from 185 students last year - a clear sign of growth. We pray God's blessing, as always, on a new

school year, on parents, students, faculty, and principal alike. The Lord watch over our best efforts and we thank Him for the growth in numbers, faith and wisdom.

The Fall Leadership Forum, scheduled for November 9, 2013 from 8:30 – 12:00 in the church will be facilitated by nationally known author and presenter, Dr. Dan Ebener. His new book is *"Blessings for Leaders: Leadership Wisdom from the Beatitudes"*. We are fortunate to avail of such services. All parishioners are invited to this forum in the church.

As we go to press and, not knowing the future, let us join our Holy Father, Pope Francis, in praying, through the intercession of Mary, for Peace on Earth and for the poor people of Syria.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Nicholas P. Clavin
Pastor

Rev. Nicholas Clavin

Consider RCIA; by Deacon Ron

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a communal process of spiritual and educational formation for adults who seek to become full members of the Roman Catholic Church through a conversion of mind and heart. The process is open to all persons, regardless of religious background or philosophical persuasion, who genuinely seek, by God's grace, to live their lives in the distinctive Catholic Christian faith. The RCIA, is a process through which non-baptized men and women enter the Catholic Church. It includes several stages marked by study, prayer and rites celebrated at Mass. Non-baptized participants in the RCIA are known as catechumens. They undergo a process of conversion as they study the Gospel, profess faith in Jesus and the Catholic Church, and receive the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist. Coming into full communion with the Catholic Church describes the process for entrance into the Catholic Church for men and women who are baptized Christians but not Roman Catholics. These individuals make a profession of faith, celebrate Confirmation and Eucharist, but they are not baptized again. To prepare for this reception, the people,

who are called "candidates," usually participate in the RCIA formation program to help them understand and experience the specific teachings and practices of the Catholic Church. Candidates, however, have already been baptized and committed to Jesus Christ, and many of them have also been active members of other Christian communities. As such, their preparation process can be shorter than that of the catechumen. If you or someone you know is interested in the RCIA process please contact the Church for more information.

Pastoral Stewardship Council

Ministry Spotlight

The Community of Saint Gregory the Great celebrates God's love in Christ as a family of stewards centered in the Eucharist, the Word, and Christ's presence in one another.

We live to glorify God and proclaim God's presence in this world. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are God's light, love, and hands extended.

Our Parish mission is carried out by the Clergy, staff, ministries and all members of the parish. The Pastoral Stewardship Council (PSC)

is one ministry that serves as a resource for the pastor and focused on the mission of our parish. The PSC serves in three primary areas: Communication.

The Council's primary role is to facilitate communication between the clergy, administration, ministries and the entire faith community. Members of the PSC communicate regularly with the seven different groups of ministries and facilitate the sharing of

information from these ministries with Father Nick, the parish staff, other ministries and the parish. The Council members meet monthly with Father Nick to provide him with updates on key events within the ministries. The PSC also provides members of ministry with important information regarding upcoming events, church activities, needs of the staff and the parish. Sponsored Events. The PSC host events with

leaders from ministries and the parish at large with activities geared toward spiritual well-being, and finding ways to work together more effectively. Pitching In. Finally, the PSC supports the parish by pitching in to help wherever it can by coordinating activities and volunteer efforts for the Gala and Fall Festival. The Council has co-sponsored and helped to staff social gatherings such as spaghetti dinners and has spearheaded an effort to provide parish wide recognition to well deserving parishioners who have provided outstanding service to the St. Gregory faith community.

St. Gregory The Great Catholic School



St. Gregory the Great Catholic School celebrated the fifth anniversary with the opening of the school year on September 3. This was the first year that school has been in session on the feast of St. Gregory, and the occasion was marked with Fr. Nick presiding at a beautiful liturgy in the school Library Media Center. We are delighted to welcome four new staff members to our school community: Laetitia Czerniak- Gr. 8 teacher; Kira Howe- Science teacher; Bert Meza- Custodian; Dr. Jocelyn McCullough- School counselor. Our school community has grown to accommodate 224 students from one hundred forty-five families, with waiting lists for kindergarten through grade 4.

This is an exciting year for our parish school, as we establish the eighth grade class; Class of 2014, our first graduating class! The eighth grade students will have opportunities to visit the local Catholic High Schools and have already welcomed representatives from Cathedral Catholic High School, St. Augustine

High School, and Our Lady of Peace Academy.

The summer months have been very productive; three classrooms were reassigned; all classroom carpets, tile, and student chairs were cleaned; the school office reception area was remodeled; 8th grade classroom was outfitted; built-in cabinetry was installed in the staff workroom; twenty panic button key fobs were purchased for school staff, and a panic button was installed in the school office.

Curriculum enrichment programs this year include foreign language (Spanish (Sing 'n Speak Spanish®); Accelerated Reader; Accelerated Math; Music Program; Second Step Curriculum® (character development and student empowerment); Art Program (Arts Attack ®).

We are delighted to provide a variety of extracurricular programs for our students this quarter. These programs include Beginning and Intermediate Guitar; Instrumental Band; Piano; Fun Fitness, Cheer; and Zumba for kids.

Planning is well under way for the Annual Parish Fall Festival, which will take place at the parish campus in Stonebridge on October 12. Erin Ferguson, the chairperson for this event, invites you to join her team in preparing for this fun event. Contact her at efergus2@roadrunner.com with your offer of support.

We look forward to a wonderful school year and are most grateful for an inspiring Pastor, fabulous teachers, great families, stellar students, and the many parishioners who generously support Catholic education. We ask God's blessing on our ministry, to teacher as Jesus did. We are truly blessed!

Faith Formation: Serving Over 800 Children

It's the most wonderful time of the year. Remember the Staples ad a few years back with the parent skipping through the store and the kids looking glum? Well that time has arrived again and with school just beginning we find faith formation is just around the corner. We look forward to welcoming the smiling faces of the

children in our parish to our program where they can learn all about their faith and evangelize through the way they live their life. This world pulls our children and youth in so many ways that they can become confused and fearful. When they spend time in God's word they learn all about the loving creator who wants the best for

them. Please sign your children up for classes as soon as possible. Classes start September 19, 21 and 22. We are also looking for adults to share faith with our wonderful children. If interested, please contact Ginger Marlin or Judy Roitz in the Faith Formation office. **Class times: Thursday K-4 4:00 PM, Saturday K-4 4:15-6 Pm, Sunday 7:00am, 8:15, 10:15 & 4:15; Middle school 5/6 & 7/8 Thursday 6:00-8:00 PM alternate**

Fr. Nick's 40th Anniversary Celebration

The Scriptures, as the homilist Msgr. Gallagher, so eloquently articulated, give great significance to the number 40. At the great flood it rained for 40 days and 40 nights. The Israelites wandered for 40 years in the desert before entering the Promised Land. Now that gives me something to look forward to. It seems to say the best is yet to come. Though the body is breaking down, could it be that the Spirit is coming into its prime! Jesus spent 40 days in the desert before His public ministry. I will say, that after 40 years, one needs a stimulus to lift the heart in anticipation of what lies ahead.

The Parish and School staged a 40th Anniversary that certainly raised one's spirit at a delightful Liturgy, followed by hors d'ouevres, and Irish dancing in the Gathering Plaza, and an outstanding dinner party in the Parish Hall where the 40th cuisine was a tastebud delight. My brother and his wife, Mary Claire, and family brought a special dimension by their presence. My nephew, Harry, surpassed me in excellence on the concertina, and Irish tin whistle, and six-year-old Pollyanna composed and delivered a bilingual (Irish and English) Prayer of the Faithful. My brother, Donal, did not fly 6,000 miles without speaking in hyperbole about the big brother. Forgive him!

I thank Cheryl Magner for a grand Liturgy, where Tim Hilgeman provided choice music, and Fr. Cunnane was delighted with "*Our Lady of Knock* – his home parish – *Queen of Ireland*". Fr. Nick Dempsey– final member of the golf group – gave the toast, and our own Fr. Ed gave the invocation. The Knights of Columbus were responsible for good spirits with pre and post-prandials. The Tim Hilgeman Band was superb, causing the formal occasion to erupt in joy with Irish dancing , music and song. I know you cannot plan this part of it, but it turned into an evening of much celebration and joy.

I am indebted to the 40th Planning Committee, who kept the ruby jubilarian out of the pre-planning. They are Toni Colombo, Rob Thornhill, M.C. for the evening, Jeannine Sullivan, Kris Lightheart, Cheryl Magner, and Stephanie Lower (staff). My sincere gratitude for all your planning meetings and hard work. It surely paid off.

I express my gratitude for the grand presentation made by Toni Colombo and Mrs. Maeve O'Connell (School). One of



Clergy gathered for Father Nick's 40th Anniversary Mass



Father Nick and his brother Donal signing an Irish tune!

One of the grand features of the evening was the ongoing slide show compiled and created by Toni Colombo.

I appreciate the wonderful gathering of parishioners and friends at the Mass and that some had to sit out in the cold. There was also a fine contingent of Leonard cousins from Scripps Ranch, Orange County, and Florida. I thank you for your prayers, gifts, and good wishes. You can be assured that the formalities of this anniversary occasion touched the heart, and, by me, will be remembered fondly for a very long time.

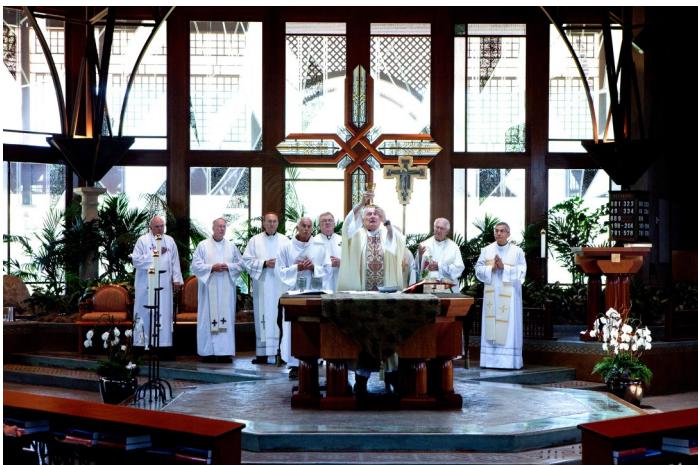
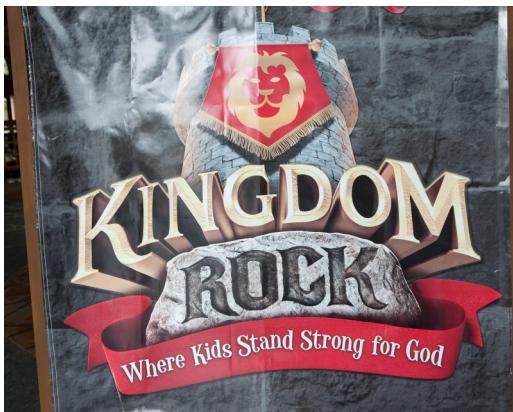
Gratitude!

Fr. Nick



Vacation Bible School

This summer found us Standing Strong through God's Love, family and friends, prayer, trusting God and with the Bible. We were blessed to have 240 children from Preschool to 4th grade as campers. We had 125 youth leaders to help with our program along with approximately 100 adults. We practiced standing strong with song, games, drama, crafts, snacks and video. A wonderfully fun week was had by all.



Celebration Mass in honor of Father Ed

August 24, 2013

Congratulations to Father Ed Gallaher on the 60th Anniversary of his Ordination. Thank you for your dedicated service to our Parish, we are very grateful.



New Parish Picture Directory Sign Ups @ www.stgg.org

St. Gregory The Great Catholic Church

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A Catholic Faith Community



Parish Calendar (also available on the Parish web site)

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|--------------|---|
| 9/24 | RCIA Focus Sessions, 7 PM, Parish Hall (also 10/1,
10/15, 10/29, 11/12, 11/26) |
| 9/27 | Spaghetti Dinner, 5 PM, Parish Hall |
| 10/12 | Fall Festival, 11:30 AM—9:00 PM

5:00 PM Mass on the grass

St. Gregory the Great Catholic School @ Stonebridge |
| 10/13; 11/10 | New Parishioner Orientation |
| 10/19 | Anointing of the sick Mass, 10 AM, reception after |
| 11/1 | All Saints Day Masses; 8 AM, noon, 7 PM |
| 11/2 | All Souls Day Mass, 7 PM |
| 11/19 | Parish Leadership Forum, 8:30 AM—Noon, Parish Hall |
| 11/9-11/10 | Ministry Fair |
| 11/24 | Blood Drive; 7 AM—Noon, Church |
| 11/27 | Thanksgiving Vigil Mass; 7 PM |

