



SEPTEMBER 2019

The Messenger

Saint Gregory the Great Catholic Church
San Diego, California

The children and teens, renewed by the summer break, are back to our Parochial School, Faith Formation and Confirmation. The sight of a hall full of teens broken into small groups of discussion, dialogue, mutuality exchange, and just ordinary companionship, is inspiring. The role of the Catechist is one of enabling, training, facilitating, and creating a space for young people to take responsibility for building community, and having to do with seeing hearing, speaking, talking, listening, feeling, sharing and so on. The role of the Catechist serves to keep the process on track and produce good fruit. God bless all the catechists as they share their faith in building Christian community.

Allow me to say a word on middle school. Middle school establishes a frame work of success for young people. Students begin to understand the importance of education and its role in their path to achievement as they begin to visualize their future and consequently take responsibility for their learning. Choosing a middle school that meets those needs and nurtures your son or daughter in this critical development time is crucial.

I present to you there are many advantages to Catholic middle school at STGG. First there is strong study skills and critical thinking to equip for future success. There is formation of character, taking a stand for justice in corporal/spiritual works of mercy – by standing for what is right and for rights of all students, thus learning to be a leader. It fosters courage, integrity and values, through catholic school ethos. More easily, caught than taught.

There is the strengthening of corporate, personal identity as well as endorsing family values. And it has to do with anchoring one's decision making process in both faith and community - a wisdom far greater than our own. There is also, whole person sex education, developing a healthy sexuality based on self-worth as a child of God; placing sexual activity in the context of commitment, in sacramental marriage and personal responsibility.

Catholic School Retreats give opportunity to see oneself in relation to the world and hence build on a common humanity in the body of Christ. At an age of natural questioning and self-assertion, there is the anchoring of a person in a safe place, small environment, where they are known, accepted, and appreciated - as they test the waters of self-discovery,

Daily communal prayer, encouragement of private and home personal prayer, regular school Masses and prayer services, all cultivate a deeper sense of liturgical engagement particularly toward regular Sunday Mass, the heart of the Catholic Faith.

Christ is the reason for our Catholic School and Christ plays a great role in middle school. Christ gives Identity as a child of God and is focal in wrestling with decision making. Christ is a friend in loneliness' and support in adversity.

As you see, I am an ardent advocate for Catholic School and especially for middle school, as 13 is the age when young people leave the church. If any parents wish to consider middle school, Mrs. O'Connell and myself would be happy to meet with you. We are committed to making Catholic School affordable for all Parish families.

I invite you to a morning on *The Spirituality of the Laity* which is stewardship. Set aside the date of October 19th with Tracy Welliver. Please refer to page 7 for more information.

Lastly, we hope you enjoyed the Fall Festival on September 28th. A special thanks to Katie Herbert and Brie Atwater for chairing the event.

Have a blessed fruitful fall season!

Very Reverend Nicholas Clavin
Pastor



From the Desk of Deacon Ron

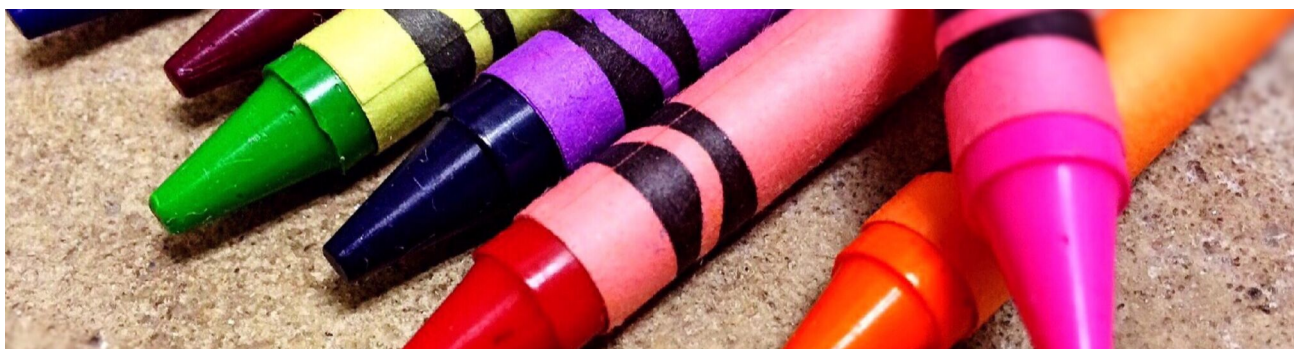
Dear Parish Family,

Each year at this time we start to welcome those who seek to follow Jesus in a deeper way. I have the privilege to welcome them prior to the start of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Women and men, old and young, come looking to start this journey of faith. Each one comes for unique reasons from unique backgrounds. For whatever reason they are there, whatever prompted them to come at this time to this place it is the prompting of the Holy Spirit. God uses the ordinary to call us to the extraordinary. It may be our Catholic spouse, as a parent it might be a child, it could be an impending marriage, a feeling of incompleteness, even a tragedy in our life. For whatever reason God has gotten our attention and we have decided to act on it. Each one of these individuals is a gift as are we all. They may see themselves as flawed not knowing why they are here. They may be reluctant to be here or they may be very sure of what they are doing. Some come with rich religious background, some come not knowing much about God or Church. Each one comes searching. What they hopefully come to understand is they are not there so the Church can stamp, "CATHOLIC" across their foreheads. What they are offered is an opportunity to establish or rejuvenate a personal relationship with the Word of God made flesh, Jesus the Christ. This journey is about relationship. Relationships start with attraction to another. It is nurtured by time together, conversation, getting to know who the other is and revealing who we are. At some point we chose to give ourselves to this relationship, we open our hearts. This is conversion, falling in love. In this case to fall in love with God through Jesus and the Church he established. Sometimes, as long time Catholics, like in any long term relationship, we can get caught up in just going through the motions we forget why we fell in love. Unless we rekindle the relationship with those things that drew us together in the first place the relationship can become stale, dull and we lose interest.

Like any athlete when they start to lose their edge they must always return to the basics. The basics of relationship is: attraction, nurtured by time together, conversation, getting to know who the other is again and revealing who we are and at some point choosing to give ourselves to this relationship as we reopen our hearts and fall in love once again. For us as a community we need to have events that rekindle the flames of faith, reminders of who we are and who loves us. Some of these events are personal some are communal. Going to Mass with new vitality is one way. Sometimes we need outside events that stimulate the soul in new ways. In an effort to rekindle our relationship with our beloved Lord we are having just such an event this October 19, here at the parish. We are very blessed to have a faith filled speaker, Tracy Welliver who will engage us in our effort to keep our relationship with God strong. There will be more information about this morning of reflection coming in the near future.

I hope to see you there as Fr. Nick and the staff welcome you.

In Christ,
Deacon Ron



Faith Formation

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 & 26 for middle school and October 3-6th for Elementary. We are also looking for adults to share faith with our wonderful children. If this peaks your interest please contact Ginger Marlin or Erica Rossio in the Faith Formation office.

Class times:

Thursday K-4 4:00 PM

Saturday K-4 4:15, Sunday 8:15, 10:15
& 4:15

Middle school 5/6 & 7/8 Thursday
6:00-8:00 PM alternate Thursdays

Young Adult

Hi EveHi Everyone! If you haven't met me yet, I'm Matt Tobin and I'm the new Young Adult Coordinator here at St. Gregory the Great. We had a great summer with our softball team, as well as the Diocese Awakening Retreat the weekend of September 13th-15th. Now that's summer's coming to a close we are looking forward to the many events we have planned for the Young Adult community. Starting this month, we have partnered with St. Gabriel's and St. Michael's to foster specific groups for young adult men and women. The men's group is facilitated by myself, while the women's group will be facilitated by St. Gabriel's young adult coordinator, Kiersten Rowell. To stay in touch with the upcoming events, make sure to follow us on Instagram!

We hope to see you soon. God Bless!

Matt Tobin
Instagram: @stgg_ya





Youth Ministry

As summer draws to an end, I've been asked to share what our youth have been up to these last few weeks. Beach/bonfires at La Jolla Shores and Crown Point book-ended our summer! Let me just run it down for you...

We took 7 members of our Servant Leadership Team to Leadership Camp-the theme was, Living Justice, Proclaiming Peace. This 5 day retreat helped strengthen the teens by giving them practical tips and experiences that will help them to continue to grow in their own faith, and be able to be a witness to the teens they will be working with.

In the meantime, our Servant Leadership Team (SLT) met 2 times at Yogurt Heaven to bond and talk about future events! Yogurt Heaven opened an hour early so we could have private time there during the hot summer. Our beach/bonfires added a change of scenery where we were able to build community with several of our local parishes. There was also time to share food, music, worship, waves and s'mores!

Next was our annual trip to USD for the Steubenville San Diego Conference. This year's group was able to hear from the renowned Fr. Mike Schmitz, and we had the honor of sharing Adoration in the arena with about 2,400 teens on fire for Christ!



We were able to participate in the fundraiser for Fr. Joe's Villages called, A Short Walk Home." Bishop Dolan was there, and we got to hear stories about why it is so important to look out for the "least of our brothers and sisters." The walk was upbeat and enlightening, and encouraging for all!

Later that week, we showed the movie "Evan Almighty" here on the grass on a Friday evening roasting s'mores while laughing our heads off. I almost forgot to include the Basketball Turney at Good Shepherd Parish. Let me tell you, St. Greg's teens were a tough bunch-they played their hearts out for a good solid 2 hours! I was so impressed with the guys and girls that represented our parish!!

Finally, at the end of July we hosted a 5 week Theology of the Body course taught by Chris Schnitzius. It was very informative and many who came were very appreciative that we brought the course to our parish over the summer.

As we are gearing up for fall, and the starting of the 2 Year Confirmation Program, I thank God for all that has been, and pray for all that is to come. I also want to thank God for all the teens that participated this summer, and for the AMAZING VOLUNTEERS that spent many hours in service to our youth and parish.

Peace,
Suzanne



Saint Gregory the Great Catholic School

15315 Stonebridge Parkway ~ www.stggcs.org (858) 397-1290

An exciting new year of learning has begun at our parish school. We asked God's blessing on our endeavors at the opening of school Mass on August 26 when Fr. Nick encouraged students to spread kindness and enjoy a year of growth in faith, academics, and service. This year we welcome two new teachers: Mrs. Melissa Fugitt (Kindergarten) and Mrs. Michelle Jones (Middle School Literature). Both teachers have a wealth of experience at their grade levels and are a great addition to our already fabulous team of educators. Mrs. Kelli Lawrenz joins our team as Volunteer and Development Coordinator. We are blessed with a high degree of parent involvement at school, and Kelli ensures that parent volunteers find their place in our stewardship plan.

Many of our teachers performed classroom makeovers during the summer to incorporate flexible seating, a research-based approach that offers a variety of seating options to students with diverse learning styles. Additionally, we have expanded our 1:1 iPad program from middle school to kindergarten. Accessing specific educational Apps enhances the learning experience for our students in all curricular areas. Our school is accredited by the Western Catholic Education Association and Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Our mission is for students to grow in faith and to meet and often exceed the Common Core curriculum standards. This year we are adopting a new math program, Eureka Math, in grade K-5 and a new reading program, Wonders, in K-2. Our teachers attended many seminars and training sessions during the summer months to ensure a smooth roll-out of these programs.

As a Catholic school community, we are committed to stewardship and service. Our first service project of the year, "Light the Way", organized by 8th grader, Preston Morris in support of Rady Children's Hospital, was a great success. Student Council is contacting parish ministry leaders to investigate how our school can connect and support our parish ministries through a variety of service projects this year. Consider a Catholic education for your child. Check out our virtual tour on the school website and schedule a meeting with the principal to learn more about the amazing environment at our parish school. There are openings at all grade levels and enrollment continues throughout the year.



Respect for Life



"The right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition of all other personal right"

– Saint Pope John Paul II

This ministry promotes the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception to natural death through education, fundraising and advocacy. We promote also Marriage between a man and a woman and the defense of Religious Liberty. One of the most successful events in changing hearts is the 40 Days Campaign, where parishioners gather to pray for our unborn brothers and sisters, being on the front-lines, reaching out to mothers and fathers with a message of hope; being the voice of those who cannot speak for themselves.

The next life-saving all 40 Days Campaign starts on Sept 25 thru Nov. 3, 2019, we hope you join us!

Ministry of Consolation

The Ministry of Consolation provides parish support and healing at an important time of need. It is a care-giving group of believers dedicated to the needs of family and friends when they have suffered the loss of a loved one. These ministers are among the first to reach out and help others of our parish family when they are emotionally fragile. The Ministry of Consolation

- Assists the family in preparing the Funeral Liturgy.
- Participates in the celebration of the Funeral Liturgy as an usher, Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Altar Server, Liturgical Coordinator, and Hospitality Coordinator.
- Coordinates the reception following the mass if requested by the family.
- Maintains contact with the deceased's family through cards and notes sent at the 90 day anniversary of the death as well as the 1 year anniversary.
- Coordinates the All Souls Mass on November 2nd each year. A candle is prepared for each family with the deceased's name on it.

After the celebration of the mass, the family is invited to take the candle home to use at family celebrations.

For funeral

information and scheduling, contact

Judy Roitz at 858-653-3540.

To volunteer for this ministry, contact

Jeannine Sullivan at 858-689-1285.



SAVE THE DATE!

October 19th - 9:00am - 12:00pm



The Spirituality of the Laity

Tracy Earl Welliver is a Catholic author, speaker, consultant, and Gallup-certified Strengths coach with over 25 years' experience in parish ministry. He is currently the Director of Parish Community and Engagement for LPI, having previously served for 22 years as Pastoral Associate at Saint Pius X Catholic Church in Greensboro, NC. . He has spoken all over North America, Australia, and New Zealand.

Tracy is the author of many books and publications all published by LPI. He has a BA in theology from DeSales University and a MTS from Duke Divinity School. Tracy has been married to his wife, Mariann, for 28 years and they have 3 children.

We are pleased to be able to offer a morning of reflection on, The Spirituality of the Laity with Tracy as our facilitator. Please mark your calendars for the morning of Saturday, October 19 in the parish hall. Breakfast will be served.

PSC



The (PSC) Pastoral Stewardship Council is a group of parishioners at St. Gregory the Great who meet and work with Father Nick to talk about issues, projects, and things that are going on, and are planned for the parish.

Upcoming calendar items, matters needing to be discussed, as well as the status and challenges of the sixty plus Ministries and Groups at St. Gregory's all comes before the PSC in our meetings. From that discussion and with that input, Father Nick then decides and gives direction to move forward as to how best meet the pastoral needs of the parish. The primary mission of the PSC is to represent the parishioners and serve as an advisory council to Father Nick on matters related to ministries, groups and issues within the parish. With such a large and busy parish – where there is almost something occurring every daylight hour of the month, the PSC also acts as Father Nick "eyes and ears" as to what is happening in the parish. We meet the first Tuesday, approximately ten months of the year in the Nursery Room in the Hall at 4:30 p.m. trying to keep the meetings to one hour.

Ministry of Mothers

The Ministry of Mothers (MOMs) is a social ministry of Catholic mothers of children of ALL AGES who gather to share prayer, ideas and fellowship. From making new friends, listening to fantastic speakers, attending playgroup events and really fun “mom’s nights outs,” our ministry strives to be a well-rounded organization that can support you in all aspects of your life as a Catholic mother.

Our meetings are held the 1st Thursday of every month (except January) during the school year from 9:30-11:30 AM. We meet in the Parish Hall and we offer childcare in the adjacent church nursery.

Whether you are looking for spiritual growth, mothering support, new friendships or just good old fashioned fun, our ministry has it all and ALL are welcome.

Contact Info:

Email:

Stgregorymoms@gmail.com

Website:

<http://stgregorymoms.wixsite.com/sandiego>



Gardening Ministry

Our mission is to beautify and take loving care of the St. Gregory the Great campus by nurturing God's creations, enhance and return them to the Lord through the eyes of parishioners and visitors alike. Members of the ministry, approximately 25 stalwart individuals, meet every other Saturday, get our hands into the earth and among the plants. With a silent prayer and a thimble of hope we dig and weed, plant and fertilize. We wait. God does the rest - every single time! We like to imagine that every flower is a prayer. Each time we meet and work, we are surrounded by flowers. Next time, after mass is over, don't head straight for your car. Take a leisurely stroll around the campus, enjoy the feeling of being surrounded by flowers, by prayers, by love.



Outreach for Nazareth Orphanage



"Outreach For Nazareth Orphanage" (OFNO), is a 501(C)3 IRS Approved Entity Whose Mission and Ministry is to Support Nazareth Orphanage in Tecate, Mexico – Website:

www.ofno.org

Father Kelly wants you to consider your Time, Talent and Treasure!!! These gifts are needed and welcomed in assisting with God's Work benefiting Nazareth Orphanage and the young boys and girls being cared for there. Your Time and Talent: Work Trips to "spiffy-up" the facilities of Nazareth Orphanage during the upcoming 2019/2020 school year are scheduled for September 21st, November 9th, January 11th and March 28th. Your Treasures: Supplies for each trip cost from \$1,500 to \$2,000. Also, OFNO is fundraising to build a girls dormitory and dining room to accommodate up to 50 girls who are "at risk for human trafficking" The loving, dedicated, and caring Sister of the Holy Spirit and For The Poor see the serious need to shelter these young girls and provide the emotional, educational and religious development for each of them. You can participate in this fundraising effort with a Cash Donations of amounts large or small plus designating OFNO as a beneficiary in your Life Insurance, Estate/Will or gifts of other assets to benefit OFNO's mission. See more information on the website: www.OFNO.org. Or Contact:

Tom Elliott: elliottinsurance@yahoo.com (760) 484-8310 or

Father Kelly: midway4126@yahoo.com (760) 448-5462

Build A Miracle

167 homes have been built in Tijuana by or because of the efforts of our parishioners!

St. Gregory The Great seems to be one of those places that you come across just once in a life time. We have found our parishioners to be the most loving and generous of any place that we have known or been involved with. They are the kind of people who say yes. Yes to helping others, yes to loving their neighbors, yes to getting their hands dirty, yes to you blessing others with their time, treasure and talent.

It has been a blessing to see so many from our parish build homes and get close to their families in Mexico. You can truly see God at work through the hands and hearts of our parishioners.

Besides building homes, St Gregory parishioners have also helped our friends in Tijuana start a sewing program, a beauty school program, sponsored students to go to high school and college, and here on this side of the border, they have organized their places of work or their schools to raise the funds to build homes. The impact our parish has had in helping to break the cycle of poverty in Mexico is bigger than you can imagine.

If you would like to learn more about our programs or come and help build, just email us at cjn1@yahoo.com.

Build a Miracle could not be more thankful to each of you for making this world a better place - one home, one family, one community at a time.

With

Love and Blessings,

Chris and Julianne North



Demographics

Households by Location

Scripps Ranch	1,777
Mira Mesa	316
Rancho Penasquitos	297
Rancho Bernardo/Carmel Mtn.	250
Poway	161
4S Ranch	110
Other	250
Total Households	3,161

Longevity of our Households

Years in Parish	Households	Percent
0-5	623	19.67%
6-10	641	20.25%
11-15	573	18.09%
16-20	729	23.03%
21-25	281	8.88%
26-33	303	9.57%
Not Known	11	0.35%
Totals	3,161	100%

What Were Our Ages?

Ages	Total	Male	Female	Percent
0-5	349	184	165	3.20%
6-17	1,920	976	944	17.60%
18-30	1,969	995	974	18.05%
31-40	1,275	588	687	11.69%
41-50	1,735	829	906	15.91%
51-60	1,663	806	857	15.25%
61-70	870	441	429	7.97%
71-80	461	217	244	4.23%
81+	168	77	91	1.54%
Not Known	496	231	265	4.55%
Totals	10,906	5,344	5,562	100.00%

What are our average ages?

The average age of our adult parishioners is 45 years old.

The average age of our child parishioners is 11 years old.

Interfaith Marriages?

Of all unions, 39% involved one spouse from another faith tradition.

What Sacraments Did We Receive?

	Total	Adult	Children
Baptisms	116	5	111
First Eucharist	125	10	115
Confirmation	125	125	0
First Reconciliation	120	5	115
Marriages	31	31	0
Funerals (not a Sacrament)	22	22	0

Faith Formation Enrollment

PreK	17
Kindergarten	36
Grade 1	66
Grade 2	84
Grade 3	67
Grade 4	62
Grade 5	57
Grade 6	41
Grade 7	33
Grade 8	55
Total Enrollment	518

STGG School Enrollment

PreK	52
Kindergarten	25
Grade 1	18
Grade 2	18
Grade 3	25
Grade 4	24
Grade 5	22
Grade 6	25
Grade 7	25
Grade 8	29
Total Enrollment	263

Confirmation Enrollment

Total Year One	88	Total Year Two	125
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Stewardship of Time & Talent

In Which Ministries Did Our Parishioners Participate?

Ministry	Members in Ministry	Ministry	Members in Ministry
Adopt-A-Family	2	Knights of Columbus	154
Adoration	3	Lectors	66
Altar Linens	9	Liturgical Environment	47
Altar Servers	35	Liturgical Scheduling	1
Baptism Seminars	4	Marriage Encounter	16
Bible Study	47	Martha's Ministry	11
Blood Drive	2	Mental Health Ministry	9
Boy Scouts 616	18	Military Friendship & Support	33
Boy Scouts 664	27	Ministry Fair	2
Build-A-Miracle	9	Ministry of Consolation	29
Catholic Men's Fellowship	18	Ministry of Mothers	109
Children's Liturgy of the Word	6	Music Ministry	71
Communion to the Homebound	30	New Parishioner Orientations	18
Computer Help Ministry	4	Nursery Co-op	6
Confirmation Preparation - Adult	1	Our Lady of Fatima Devotion	1
Confirmation Preparation - Youth	105	Parent Teacher Stewardship Guild (PTSG)	7
Cooking Group	10	Parish Tours	3
Cub Scouts	18	Pastoral Stewardship Council	20
Cursillo	61	Prayer Wheel	24
Daily Mass Ministry	52	Prayers and Squares	37
Development Committee	11	RCIA	8
Divine Mercy Cenacle	30	Relevant Radio	1
Donuts and Coffee	1	Respect for Life / Social Justice	65
Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	170	Rosary Cenacle	26
Faith Formation - Adult	1	Rosary Makers	22
Faith Formation - Children	78	School Board	1
Faith Formation - Middle School	26	Senior Social Ministry	0
Family Cancer Support	15	Sister Parish Outreach	28
Filipino - American	39	Special Needs Ministry	3
Film Fans	20	St Vincent DePaul, Meals for the Homeless	67
Finance Committee	9	STGG Food Share	1
Gala	27	Vacation Bible School	141
Gardening Ministry	20	Wedding Ministry	11
Greeters & Ushers	105	Widows Friendship Group	15
Grief Share	1	Women's Book Club	27
Health and Safety Ministry	52	Women's Friendship Circle	42
Helping Hands	4	Young Adult Ministry	57
Kitchen Coordinator	1	Youth Ministry	105
Total Ministries	76	Total Members	2355

"Let us use well the time that God gives us, so that He may give us His eternity." Blessed Louis Brisson

"When we work for God, nothing is small!" St. Leonie Aviat

"How immeasurable is the goodness of God!" St. Francis de Sales

Sister Parish Outreach



Fall is a busy season for those of us that serve on the Sister Parish Outreach Ministry. Our mission is to share the blessings of St. Gregory the Great parishioners with our sister parish, Our Lady of Angels. We have already held our annual August School Supply Drive, benefitting the students at Our Lady's School and are looking ahead to the Winter Blanket Drive in October, the Thanksgiving Food Drive in November, and our fabulous Rummage Sale in February. All of these drives benefit the needy families of Our Lady of Angels. With deep gratitude for the continued support of our generous parishioners we look forward to serving these families again this year. The outpouring of donations for our drives in 2018 resulted in 167 filled backpacks, 109 blankets and sleeping bags and 250 Thanksgiving food bags with \$20 gift cards for each bag. This year eight of our ministry attended the Gala for Our Lady's School, where a check for \$6,500, proceeds from our 2019 Rummage Sale, was presented to Principal Noel Bishop. We are a hard-working but fun loving group and welcome new members with open arms!

Up Coming Events

October 5th

Mass for the Sick 10:00am
Faith Formation begins

October 12th

Winter Blanket Drive
After all Masses

October 19th

The Spirituality of the Laity
with Tracy Welliver
9:00am -12:00pm
Parish Hall

October 25th

Pasta Festa 5:30-7:00pm
Parish Hall

November 1st

All Saint's Mass
8:00am, 12:00pm, 7:00pm

November 2nd

All Soul's Mass 10:00am

November 23-24th

Thanksgiving Food Drive
After all Masses

December 1st

First Sunday of Advent

The office will be closed on
11/11, 11/28, & 11/29

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