



ST GREGORY THE GREAT FALL NEWSLETTER 2020

“Let us Return to the Eucharist with Joy”

Dear Parishioners,

Our students have returned gratefully to in-classroom instruction for the fall semester, and this is a great blessing. Surely this is the grandest season of all; the harvest time of year and the season of fruitfulness. We pray that this return may prove to be a fruitful semester for all parish school families. We are reminded of a fruitful offertory during this time of pandemic, what great stewardship! Let me extend my depth of gratitude to the parish community for contributing over 80% of regular offertory giving. This is an extra ordinary level of giving in these times and for which we are most grateful.

The Faith Formation and Confirmation classes will open for virtual learning this month. With the help of parents we anticipate a fruitful year. Ministry leaders are encouraged to contact the office to schedule outdoor meetings on the parish grounds or for help in facilitating zoom meetings. *“Hope in Him, hold firm and take heart.” Psalm 27* October reminds us to recover a new appreciation of prayer in the Rosary, as a contemplative and Christ centered prayer. In this Mission month of October, we pray especially for all Missionaries, peace keeping soldiers and development workers. Caryll Houselander gives this excerpt from her prayer;

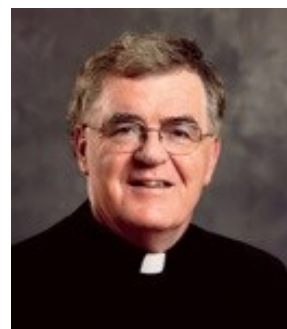
*“The Finding in the Temple through Mary seeking her lost Son,
may we be given grace always to seek for the Christ-child,
and always to find Him. Let us find Him in all children and
in all who have a child’s needs, the helpless, the sick, the
simple, the aged; in all who serve and are trusting and poor, in
all who are lonely and homeless. Let us too, become as little
children, to find the Divine Child in our own hearts.”*

Through the power of prayer we can face any adversity. Last week I met a parishioner who returned to Mass in church because of the message of the Holy Father. Pope Francis affirms the message of Cardinal Sarah, prefect of the Doctrine of the Faith: Calling it necessary and urgent to return to Mass as soon as Covid measures permit. Sarah says “livestreamed Masses are useful but they’re no replacement for physical presence.” He titles his letter to Bishops of the World; *“Let us return to the Eucharist with Joy”*. Sarah writes: “it is necessary and urgent to return to the normalcy of Christian life which has the Church building as its home and the Eucharist as source and summit of Christian life... for we cannot be without the Christian community. This physical contact with the Lord at Mass is vital, indispensable and irreplaceable.” In essence he is saying, in a long letter, if you are returning to recreational activities – restaurants, gyms, you should be willing to return to Mass. If we nourish our bodies at the restaurant, we should nourish our soul at Mass. It should be acknowledged that folks at risk have no obligation. Decisions like this should be taken to prayer.

May God bless all in your families in these turbulent times and keep you safe.
Let us keep each other in prayer.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Nicholas Clavin, Pastor



St. Gregory the Great Catholic Community

“Welcome Home to the Dome”

We are a vibrant, faithful, Eucharistic, Catholic Community

who bring people to Christ

and send them out to transform the world.

UP-COMING

EVENTS

Oct 10th

PET BLESSING

10AM

**UNDER THE SOLAR
PANELS IN THE
CHURCH PARKING
LOT!**

**ENTER FROM BLUE
CYPRESS AND PARK
OUTSIDE OF THE
TAPED AREA.**

**(ALL ANIMALS MUST
BE RESTRAINED BY A
LEASH OR CARRIER!)**

ON-GOING

RCIA

Wed evenings

7PM

St. Gregory the
Great Feast Day
Sept 3



Family Blessing
and Anointing of
the Sick



Many thanks to Fr. Nick,
Monsignor Gallagher, and
Fr. Rafferty for being out
there in the heat to serve
us all!



FROM THE DESK OF DEACON RON:

Dear Parish Community,

We are experiencing very interesting and trying times. With the theme of this newsletter being, “Belonging”, it is important to reflect on what belonging means to each of us. One definition is, “Possession”. While this may conjure up possession of an object it can also be a relational endearment. When a man and woman marry, they willingly give themselves to one another, to belong to the other, not as an object but as gift. When a relationship of belonging is not out of self-giftedness it is slavery. This type of belonging has been part of humanities bleak history from the very beginning and in many ways still is, especially with human trafficking.

It is the self-giftedness I would like to focus on. I have a longtime acquaintance who was talking about following his dreams. His premise was, that all of us have sold ourselves out if we do not live a life fulfilling our self-desires. If we settled for less in our job, then we sold out to the, “man”. If we do not do as we please then we have sold out to society. In the selling out scenario, giftedness is gifting one’s self to themselves. Considering self-giftedness as belonging to another, we set priorities in our life to more fully gift ourselves to another. Our job, our attitudes, the use of our time, our talents and our possessions become vehicles to serve those whom we gift ourselves. As a husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, deacon everything that does not help me gift myself to these relationships must be scrutinized, prioritized and perhaps discarded.

As Catholic Christians we are invited to accept the Father’s self-gift, Christ and then offer ourselves to the Father by belonging to Christ. Through Jesus the Father has put all things aside, death and eternal separation from Him to gift us with mercy, forgiveness and eternal belonging. Self-giftedness can not be forced on another, it must be freely given and freely accepted. In choosing Christ, in belonging to the Father we must prioritize and scrutinize all facets of our lives, so they help enhance our relationship with God.

This relationship involves devoting our lives to prayer and daily acknowledging God’s giftedness. To be grateful even when suffering, to love even when in unloving situations though we may not feel loving. This belonging calls us to give mercy and forgiveness because we have received it not because it is deserved. We all struggle in darkness on this faith journey. We struggle with discouragement, with doubt and disillusionment. Many times, we feel alone in these dark places. The Church teaches we are saved in community. It is imperative that we all have some kind of community to belong to. It may be our family, our friends, our Church. At times, the Church can seem too big or impersonal, even cold. At times we may not know where to turn to connect or belong.

Our parish is working hard to develop Small Faith Sharing Groups. This is a safe place where we can gather to share our faith and our doubts, we all doubt at times. These small groups are not self-help groups. These small groups are ways to help us stay Connected 2 Christ (C2C) through scripture and prayer. This time spent together is where we can learn to prioritize our attitudes and our time to make them Christ centered so we can gift ourselves to belong to the Father and bring more of ourselves to Mass to celebrate.

As we move forward in these unusual times, stay awake, listen and look for the invitation to join a small group for the Lenten season as we move through the fall to train Small Group Leaders. If you are interested in being a Small Group Leader please contact the parish office.

Yours in Christ,

Deacon Ron

**“Our belonging is deepened when we
help others belong!”**



We Remember the Souls of our Dearly Departed

During the month of November, photos of our departed loved ones will be displayed on our memorial trees in the Holy Family Chapel. You are invited to bring a 4"x6" photo to be added to the display. Please write the name of the deceased on the back of the photo along with a contact name and phone number and take the photo to the parish office before Friday, October 30th. Unless you request to have the photo returned, we will hold it for next year's display, and thereafter. Envelopes for the All Souls Novena will be available in the church and at the parish office. Place the names of all those you would like remembered during the novena on the envelope and return it either in the collection basket, mail, or drop off at the office. Please join us for the All Souls Mass on Monday, November 2, 2020, at 7PM. At this mass, we remember those from Saint Gregory the Great Parish who have gone to their final rest since last year's All Souls' commemoration.

If you have any questions, please contact Judy Roitz at judy@stgg.org 858-653-3584.



Young Adult Ministry Update

2020 has been a challenging year for all of us and has left all of us questioning many things. St. Gregory the Great has been working hard to help people feel like they belong in this community. In our young adult ministry we reached out via zoom to meet virtually, and now that some gatherings are allowed we meet Friday nights to play ultimate Frisbee and gather in fellowship that we have all missed. In addition to this we have started a new AV ministry that is working to bring the mass to you in your homes. With our new livestream system we have been streaming the 9am Sunday mass for the past two months and we are going to begin stream daily mass starting in October. While this is no substitute for attending mass in person, we hope that it helps you feel a sense of belonging at St. Gregory the Great until we can once again worship together.

Peace,

Matthew Tobin

Young Adult Ministry
Coordinator



First, I would like to introduce myself! My name is Julia Toole, and I am the new Youth Minister at Saint Gregory the Great. I was recently at the front desk until Suzanne Guzzardo and I switched places. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to walk with the High Schoolers of our parish through their faith journey. We are starting off our Confirmation program on September 27th. This year, due to the pandemic, the classes will be held over zoom for the first semester. Although we all have faced many challenges with our new normal, I am optimistic with what the Lord has planned for Confirmation this year. I ask for the prayers of the parish as these teens prepare for the sacrament in an unprecedented time. We are also looking to start our Youth Group back up! We are following all safety measures and suggestions provided by the State, County, and Diocese to insure we are able to meet in person. We will also be providing virtual options for those who still do not feel comfortable leaving their homes. I am looking forward to meeting all of the families and teens and getting to know your story! Please visit our website and locate the Youth Calendar for all upcoming events and for my office hours.

God Bless,

Julia Toole jtoole@stgg.org



Faith Formation Update

Hello! What a wild few months we've had! I pray you all are staying safe and healthy. There have been a number of updates to our Faith Formation program this year, one being the retirement of Ginger Marlin. After multiple decades of service, Ginger has entered into her new season of retirement joyfully, and while we all miss her greatly, we are so excited for her to spend her days relaxing and playing with her grandchildren! The current coronavirus pandemic has brought with it many challenges to our ministry. Our academic year was cut short in March, when all parish events were immediately shut down. I hope you were able to "tune in" to our Faith & Family Series on the parish YouTube channel during our months of closure!

We are very excited to begin this new year of Faith Formation and Sacrament Preparation for the children of St. Gregory the Great. And while things may look different than they have in years past, our hope is that this year will bring about a completely new side to you and your child's faith journey. Faith Formation classes for grades Kn-6th will be facilitated via a distance learning model that includes workbooks, materials, weekly detailed lesson plans, and exclusive videos made in-house to facilitate the course work. Our 7th and 8th Graders will take a virtual approach to their Catechesis with community building and religious education conducted via Zoom. Through all the changes and challenges, know that both you, and your child

BELONG at St. Gregory the Great!

Erica Rossio, Coordinator of Elementary Faith Formation

Madison Tobin, Faith Formation Assistant



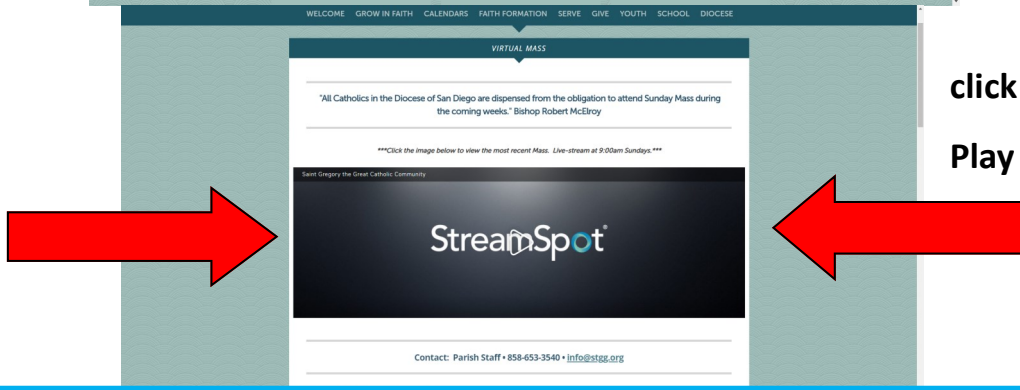
WATCHING MASS FROM HOME???

Simply visit the parish website – www.stgg.org

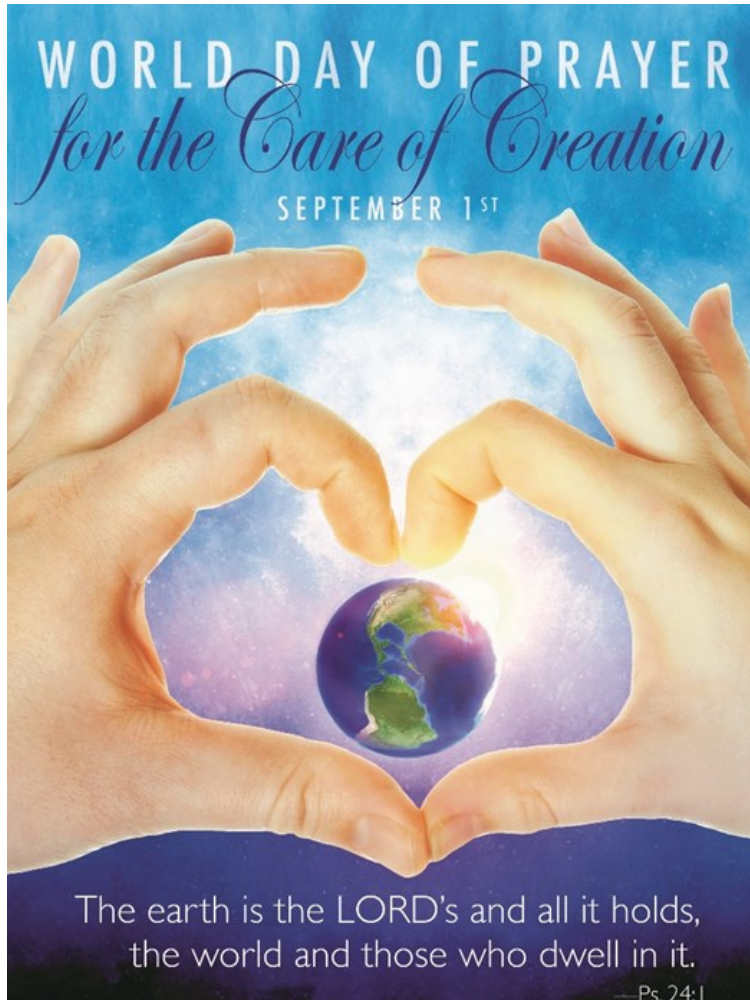
click the box
"VIRTUAL MASS"



click the
Play symbol



Stewardship



The Catechism of the Catholic Church has this to say about Stewardship: *"In the beginning God entrusted the earth and its resources to the common stewardship of mankind to take care of them, master them by labor, and enjoy their fruits...The right to private property, acquired or received in a just way, does not do away with the original gift of the earth to the whole of mankind."* CCC 2042-2043

There once was a certain farmer who one afternoon was studying his Bible. The farmer read the texts we just have read. Convicted by his new discovery, the farmer knelt down to confess to God that for all the years he had regarded the farm as his property not knowing that God was the real owner. The farmer rededicated the farm back to God as the rightful owner, while he was going to manage the farm on God's behalf.

He committed the security of the farm and its prosperity in God's hands. The same afternoon the farmer met his fellow neighbors who were all farmers with high excitement to tell them of his new discovery that God was the real owner of his farm. When the fellow farmers listened to him, they just laughed at him as if something had gone wrong in his mind. How could he say the farm belonged to God when it was he who had bought the farm at a sacrifice and even held title to it?

The farmer insisted that regardless of their words of discouragement he was going to stick to his decision. It is said during the planting season, the farmers went out to sow their seed. Unfortunately, there came a plague of locusts and destroyed all the crops in the neighboring farms except for the farm of the farmer who had committed his farm to God.

When the other farmers saw that his crop was not destroyed by the locusts, they came to inquire from him on what chemical he was using to destroy the locusts. The farmer replied that he had no chemical except for the fact that the same God who was owner of the farm was also the same God who owned the locusts. So He could choose whether to allow the locusts to graze in His farm or not.

How important it is for us like the farmer to recognize God as the rightful owner of everything we own including ourselves. Such a realization would lead us to leave the security of everything in God's hands.¹

Are you doing your part to take care of the earth as a good steward? It's not too late to start..



Nichol Swift

1. Excerpt from Dynamic Steward "Stewardship Recognizes God as Owner" Oct.-Dec. 2008

Greetings from: St. Gregory the Great Catholic School!

We are living in unprecedented times as our world copes with the challenges of a pandemic. This year's opening of school on August 18 was very different, but unique and special in its own way. We welcomed new and returning students to our distance learning platform and acquainted our families with digital platforms such as Google Classroom and Seesaw. After applying for the elementary school waiver, we were excited to hear that our school could re-open for in-person learning.



On September 1, 2020, our students were overjoyed to proudly wear their uniforms and face masks to school and greet their teachers and each other in person. Our community was excited to welcome 44 new families to our school. We are so grateful to our Parent Task Force who advised on protocols for our Re-opening Plan, which, along with guidelines from the San Diego Health & Human Service Agency and CDC, and Diocesan Office for Schools, facilitated procedures to keep our teachers and staff, students and parents healthy and safe. Social distancing, wearing face masks, frequent hand washing/sanitizing, maintaining stable student cohorts, and following stringent sanitizing procedures have become the “new normal” in our learning environment. We are blessed with amazing teachers, and with students have embraced their new responsibilities without hesitation. While the majority of our students have returned to school, we continue to provide distancing learning to families who have COVID-19 -related reason for remaining at home for a little longer.



It was such a joy to celebrate our first in-person school Mass with Fr. Nick as our presider on September 11. Gathering around the outdoor altar, we celebrated the theme of our school year, “Anchored in Christ: I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Each of our families received a “Family Faith Box” to establish their sacred prayer space at home and we will add to this space as the year continues.



Looking forward, we will continue to follow our tradition of service as we plan for the Great Quarter Race (collecting quarters to feed the hungry) at the end of October and the Reindeer Run in early December. In-person liturgies on the school field have been scheduled twice a month with virtual Mass twice a month also. It’s going to be a fabulous school year – May God continue to bless administrators, teachers, staff, students, and parents everywhere as we trust in His mercy to adapt and overcome during these challenging times.



“It was such a blessing!”

Mrs. Maeve O’Connell, Principal





tribute

Dear Faith Family,

At times as a faith family, just as in our personal families, we experience the loss of family members from this life as they leave us to be fully with God. While every faithful sister and brother is missed when they leave us, there are some that have had a profound influence on the community at large. One such person was Edward Everett Arebalo, better known as, "Eddie" or the "Donut Guy". Like an island in the middle of the ocean we only see a small portion above the surface. Yet, there is so much more that remains unseen. Eddie was just such an island.

Eddie was born March 18, 1931 in Wellington Kansas. He was the youngest boy of seven brothers and seven sisters. He joined the Navy in 1947 and was a member of the Navy SEALs and part of the Underwater Demolition Team. He came to San Diego for basic training and returned here after completing his military service in 1953. He became a self-employed contractor and retired after 40 years.

Eddie, with his family, registered at St. Gregory the Great in 1992 serving as the first Grand Knight for the Knights of Columbus in our parish. He founded the Sister Parish Outreach Ministry opening a food pantry at Our Lady of Angels in Southeast San Diego. Eddie's green pickup truck became a St. Gregory the Great Parish icon that was the weekly drop off point for food donations for our sister parish.

Eddie started and led our Doughnut Ministry up until late last year when he was no longer physically able to do so. His commitment to this parish was unwavering as demonstrated by his weekly commitment to order and pick up dozens of doughnuts every Sunday morning at 6:30am and then be ready to serve them at the Sunday morning Masses. Eddie was our parish's first and only recipient of the Catholic Charities Good Stewardship award, "Matthew 25". Eddie devoted countless hours of his labor and resources when there were maintenance needs here on our Church campus. He also shared his financial blessings with various veteran charities and a Native American school that was important to him. Eddie had a deep desire to serve the poor. The memory of Eddie lives on in the ministries he founded and in the hearts that he touched.

We thank you, Eddie for your devotion and "belonging" to this community. Rest in peace.

March 18, 1931 – December 7, 2019

