



## **St. Gregory the Great Spring 2021 Newsletter**

Dear Parishioners,

We are well on our way toward Holy Week. This year, we can utilize 25% of church capacity for Easter ceremonies and we are grateful. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday & Easter Sunday will also be live-streamed. (The Church in Ireland is in lock down until May.) I would like to thank you for your ongoing sacrificial support of the Sunday offertory and the Annual Catholic Appeal. Your continued fidelity enables us to continue the mission of the Church.

Ninety-four year old, Mary, has a laptop set up by her granddaughter. Mary lights 2 candles and places them on each side of her screen. She takes flowers from her garden to “reverence the presence of the Lord”, as Mary tells it. She has a quarried faith that hallmarks her generation. It is a special part of a hidden church. The pandemic forced Mary and all of us into isolation. But with the proximity of web cams, Mary, like many of you, is an enthusiastic faith witness. Online prayer and Masses open up new questions as to what it means to be present with the faith realities of others through livestreaming. This new way of witnessing is to be welcomed until we can all be there in person as the Body of Christ. We thank God for the miracle of the vaccines which we encourage everyone to receive.

Teilhard De Chardin writes, “Since once again Lord on the steps of Asia, I have neither bread nor wine nor altar, I will raise myself beyond these symbols, up to the pure majesty of the Real itself. I your Priest will make the whole Earth my altar, I will offer you all the labors and sufferings of the world.” This prayer is very much the vision of Pope Francis with the earth as our common home to be shared by all. Ninety-four year old Mary, connects with “the God of all creation”, through the flowers of her garden. For us, our church environment ministry decorates for the celebrations, and we enjoy it! These flowers give a fragrance to our prayer. It is there, at the altar, we are one body, one Spirit in Christ.

This past year of pandemic has given rise to a new appreciation of family, and of home as “holy ground.” This was also the experience of early Christians. They met in their homes to pray, ponder the word of God and break the bread of Life (Eucharist). This year Pope Francis has announced March 19<sup>th</sup> as the first day of the “Amoris Laetitia Family” Year in the year of St. Joseph. He has dedicated a whole year to focus on family and conjugal love.

To the Samaritan woman Jesus said, “It will neither be on this mountain nor in Jerusalem that we worship the Father, but in Spirit and in truth” (Jn 4:21-24 ). That tells us the place to worship God is in our bodies – and this we never do in isolation, despite all lockdowns. We worship as part of the connected community of Communion – which is the Body of Christ.

This coming Holy week we worship the Lord who gave His life for our sins (such is the grip of sin) and rising gloriously, that we might be a people of hope in the face of adversity. We hope you can participate in the Holy Week liturgies.

Happy Easter!

Very Rev. Nicholas Clavin, Pastor





**St. Gregory the Great**

**Catholic Community**

**We are a vibrant, faithful, Eucharistic,**

**Catholic Community**

**who bring people to Christ**

**and send them out to transform the world.**



### **Holy Week & Easter Schedule**

**Palm Sunday of the Lord's  
Passion**

**March 27th ~ 5:00PM (*Outside*)**

**March 28th~ 7:30AM, 9:00AM, 11:00AM, &  
5:00PM (*All Inside*)**

**Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper**

**April 1st ~ 7:00PM (*Inside*)**

**Good Friday of the Lord's Passion**

**April 2nd**

**The Passion of Our Lord ~ Noon (*inside*)**

**Stations of the Cross ~ 3:00PM (*inside*)**

**The Passion of Our Lord ~ 7:00PM (*inside*)**

**Holy Saturday Night: The Easter Vigil**

**April 3rd~ 8:00PM (*Inside*)**

**Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of the  
Lord**

**April 4th ~ 7:30AM, (*Outside*)**

**9:00AM & 11:00AM (*Outside*)**

### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**MARCH 13TH**

**COME CELEBRATE**

**A SPECIAL**



**ST. PATRICK'S  
DAY MASS WITH**

**FR. NICK ON**

**SATURDAY AT  
4:00PM**

**STARTING MARCH  
20TH/21ST**

**SATURDAY RECONCILIATION  
4:00PM**

**SATURDAY MASS 5:00PM**

**UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, ALL  
SATURDAY VIGIL 5PM MASSES  
WILL BE OUTSIDE**

**SUNDAY MASS 5:00PM**



## Parish App Revamped!

If you are already using our parish app, you will have noticed that we gave it a facelift this past week! Along with the new Lenten colors and wallpaper, we have revised the calendar feature to make all the calendars easily accessible and have also added many new buttons & options for prayer, news, and all things Catholic! Please note, there is also a button to view our live-stream Mass!

If you have not yet experienced our parish app, take a moment to check it out! The app is for all iPhones and Android smart phones, iPads, and Tablets. The app allows us to better communicate with you throughout the week and to keep you updated with relevant parish news or updates.

The app is very well designed and very intuitive. It is a great resource for parishioners by providing daily Mass readings, Catholic news and prayers, convenient prayer and Confession reminders, our bulletins and more.



**Need help?**  
**Reach out to Nichol Swift**  
**858-653-3540**  
**[nswift@stgg.org](mailto:nswift@stgg.org)**  
**Or stop by the parish office!**

If you wish to preview our FREE App, download and install "myParish" from the Apple App Store or from Google Play.



## Faith Formation Update

Greetings from the Faith Formation Office! We hope all our families are staying well and growing in faith during this Lent, even amid these unsettling times. We are continuing along with our Faith Formation classes on a virtual platform, and it is truly wonderful to see the growth in all our students, and the blossoming of the faith in their own homes with their families!

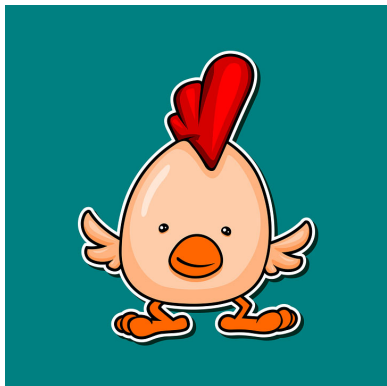


We also were able to have our 40 Sacrament Preparation students make their First Reconciliation in February! It was such a blessing to have Fr. Nick, Msgr. Gallagher, and Msgr. Bourgeois help our students on this momentous day in their faith. A very special day for many! We ask that you keep them in your prayers as they continue to prepare for their First Communions in May.

We continue to place our trust in God, His wisdom, and His divine plan for our lives, and do our best to fulfill! You are deeply loved by us here in the Faith Formation Office, and of course by our Heavenly Father. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with you and your families, and we pray you all have a fruitful Lenten season, and a joyful Easter!

Erica Rossio & Maddie Tobin  
Faith Formation Office [ff@stgg.org](mailto:ff@stgg.org)

## Youth Ministry Update



We are quickly approaching the end of our Confirmation preparation for this year! The Confirmation Mass is set to take place on April 20th on the beautiful field of Saint Gregory the Great Catholic School. I am so thankful and proud of all the students, parents, and volunteers who have taken the challenge of completing the preparation via Zoom and who have remained flexible and gracious all year.

We recently held an in person day retreat for both our Service Leadership Team on February 6th and Confirmation Students on March 6th. Although meeting in person looks different now, we are grateful for the opportunity to accomplish this in a safe and prudent way. We look forward to the future and hold on to the hope of more in person events.

As we prepare for the future of the youth program, we would love to welcome any young adults or adults who are interested in volunteering. In particular, we are in search of those who have a background in science and are interested in leading a "Faith & Science" series. If this is something you are interested in, please email me (Julia) at [jtoole@stgg.org](mailto:jtoole@stgg.org).

Please keep all the teens preparing for Confirmation and the future of our program in your prayers!

Blessings, Julia Toole



## **Funeral Preparation at St. Gregory the Great**

**When the death of a loved one occurs, the world turns upside down. In addition to the grief, anger, and solitude being felt, one is faced with planning the Liturgy and burial of the deceased. The Consolation ministry is here to help with that. The following gives a general idea of how a funeral liturgy is arranged at this parish.**

**Call and let the parish office know of the death of the family member. With permission, the name will be added to the list of petitions at weekend Masses. The name is also placed on the altar for the priest to see and add to his prayers.**

**Contact the mortuary to make arrangements for the care of the body. The mortuary most often will help you make plans with the cemetery. There will then be some iteration between the family, mortuary, cemetery, and the funeral coordinator (Judy Roitz) to find a date for the Mass and burial.**

**Attend a meeting with the funeral coordinator at the parish office. During this meeting, dates are confirmed for Mass and burial, information about the life of the deceased is gathered, resources are given to the family to help them choose readings and hymns for the Mass, and fees are discussed. In addition, they are made aware that the Consolation ministry will assist by providing lectors, ushers, altar servers, and Extraordinary Minister for the Mass if desired.**

**Attend a second meeting within a few days of the funeral with Fr. Nick to review plans for the Mass and burial. Fr. Nick also takes this time to learn a little more about the deceased directly from the family members.**

**All of the above has been put in place to make this difficult time easier for loved ones. I am also available to help any parishioner pre-plan their funeral liturgy. These can be kept on file in the parish office until the appropriate time.**

**May your Lenten Season continue to be a time of closeness to our Redeemer.**

**Judy Roitz [judy@stgg.org](mailto:judy@stgg.org) 858-653-3584**

## **Young Adult Ministry Update**

**Once again, we find ourselves in the season of Lent and we look to prepare ourselves for the coming glory of the Easter season. In the young adult community, we have started a weekly scripture study that meets after the 11:00 mass and we take a deeper look at the readings from the Sunday Mass. We hope you can make it to one!**

**Also, as more things open up again, we look forward to seeing you all in person very soon! God Bless!**

**Peace,  
Matthew Tobin**





## Welcome John

**We are truly blessed to have John Chicca as our “official” Director of Liturgical Music! Throughout the years, John has filled in during the times we have not had a director. He is a very talented musician who always looks for ways to make our liturgies more complete. His wisdom, dedication and creativity are truly inspirational. Please welcome him to our Parish Staff when you get a chance.**



### Annual Catholic Appeal Update

We are very grateful to those of you who have already contributed to the **2021 Annual Catholic Appeal, Renewing Hope**. As of March 4th, 157 families have contributed \$63,889.00. Our fair share goal is

\$106,000.00, which we must pay, so we have **\$42,111.00 left to fulfill our obligation**. But remember, any amount over our goal comes back to the parish for us to use as we wish. This year we will use any overage for repairs/improvements (outside A/V equipment) and Covid-19 related equipment/supplies. As you can see on the back page of this newsletter, we have already had to replace an air conditioning unit costing +\$8000.00. Due to the age of all the units we are told that more will need to be replaced soon.

If you have not done so already, we ask you to prayerfully consider your pledge so we can do our part to help the local church and hopefully meet our maintenance needs. Pledge cards/brochures can be found in baskets at the entrance to the church and in the pew in front of you. Do please keep the Appeal in your prayers especially in this pandemic time.



## Greetings from: St. Gregory the Great Catholic School!

It is hard to believe that a year has passed since the craziness of the Pandemic changed the way we operate; at first, adjusting to distance learning, and pivoting into the virtual world. I'm proud to say our amazing teachers and staff transitioned seamlessly, fulfilling their mission to serve the spiritual and academic needs of our students. After spending all of last summer redesigning and preparing for a safe re-opening of school for in-person learning, it paid off, and on September 1st, God blessed us to have our students back on campus.

During lent we are guiding our students to reflect on their lives during this pandemic. Through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we strive, through the grace of God to transform ourselves to the best version of ourselves.

The Mass is central to our school and even during the pandemic Fr. Nick still continues to make our student masses meaningful and relevant. Sometimes Mass is celebrated outdoors at our beautiful campus, and sometimes students livestream the Mass from our 8am parish Mass.



Currently our eighth-grade students are finalizing their high school choices. and fulfilling the admissions requirements to the schools they choose to attend. Heartfelt congratulations to 8th grader, Luke O'Leary, who excelled in the St. Augustine Placement test, scoring in the top ten of the freshman class.

Our Middle schoolers have been virtually participating in the Junior High Academic Decathlon this year and 17 seventh graders (our largest group ever) have been invited to participate in this year's Great San Diego Science & Engineering Fair. Congratulations to those who celebrated First Reconciliation in February. Let's keep them in prayer as they prepare to receive their First Holy Communion in May.



While our students work diligently toward rigorous academic standards, we also make time for social development, service, and plain old FUN! Events in the past few months included the Kid's Heart Challenge (over \$3,000 donated to the American Heart Association); 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School; Parent Appreciation Coffee & Donut Drive Thru; Favorite Book Character Dress up Day. 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.



St. Gregory the Great Catholic School & Preschool community wish all St. Gregory the Great parishioners a very joyous Easter season.



## **St. Gregory the Great In Action!**



Grateful and prayerful children from our sister parish, Our Lady of Angels. Fr. Mike Lee (Principal) sends this picture with news about how their school's in-person classes have been thriving since September. They are relying on the Annual Catholic Appeal for tuition grants for financial aid.



Your Annual Catholic Appeal dollars at work to help pay for the replacement of the aged, original heating and air conditioning system.



The Knights of Columbus's Annual Fish Fry is a giant hit!! Come early and get in line for this delicious Lenten feast!

