



St. Gregory the Great

Fall Newsletter 2021

Dear Parishioners,

“The heavens proclaim the glory of God, and the firmament shows forth the work of His hands.” Ps. 19 It’s the time of year to take in a trip to the mountains or to the glorious color of the fall in New England, where trees are adorned in God’s colors of pale yellow, deep rust and hectic red.

St. Irenaeus gives perspective, “The glory of God is man fully alive”. The month of September has shown our community is alive with the life of Christ. We are God’s Holy People, the work of His hand, and it is to God we turn for ongoing growth and renewal. What a delightful time of year, when children have settled into in-person learning in the classroom for both public and private schools. Parents are back to work without the distraction of virtual learning and watching over the children. Our Faith Formation is thriving, with near double last year’s enrollment, and Sunday morning classes with participation in the Sunday Eucharist. Likewise, we are happy that the teenagers in the Confirmation preparation program is in person. We are so fortunate to have the fine leadership of both Faith Formation and Confirmation in the persons of Maddie Hoeger and Vinny Kyamko-Yap. Following the doldrums of the summer we rightly give thanks to God for choice blessings.

Deacon Dom has made himself available for RCIA – a vibrant group. He is also on the Homily rotation for Sunday Mass, school liturgies and Baptisms. We are also fortunate to have Deacon Doug for Sunday liturgies, baptisms and keeping our campus beautiful through the gardening ministry. We are fortunate that he has made himself so available for ministry when needed. We hope for the success of the diocesan Eucharistic Initiative for growth in love and understanding of the Eucharist, the heart and soul of community life. The growth in numbers returning to Mass gives us heart and hope. Nothing better to lift drooping spirits. The joy of reunion at the Lord’s banquet table or lingering in the Gathering Plaza signals a return to the former luster of latter times. We continue to pray for our community with a way to go. St. Gregory’s school has rebounded to a full house. What a joy to celebrate weekly Eucharist with those little ones of the kingdom. They are always in my prayers of gratitude and for continued growth. Mrs. Maeve O’Connell has done a wonderful job and waves the banner of the Lord in the Scripps Ranch Newsletter. Our preschool has an enrollment of 81! Many thanks to our director, Amy Igou, who manages full and half days and 5 to 2 day a week schedules to make that number possible.

Thru the Summer Nights – a breath of fresh air – Deacon Ron’s planning heralded a community return. There were over 500 people at the first concert. He is always looking for ways to get people more engaged in our parish. The parish thanks him for his creative and generous spirit. The leadership of John Chicca, Music Director, paves the way for a return to Liturgical music and song. We are blessed with a great staff with big hearts. Our continued prayers for Business Manager, Stephanie Lower, in her fight against stage 4 cancer.

Allow me to express deep gratitude for your ongoing support in the Sunday Offertory. The Parish Council asks will there be fresh bread for Thanksgiving? We will have fresh bread for Gala 2022, April 30th thanks to Brie Atwater and Lynn Bautista-Barossa, plans are in the making. Covid has sent us through the wringer, and we have a way to go. Continuing to wash our hands, with or without masks, we observe safe practices to protect ourselves, each other, and the children. At Sunday Mass we pray for the safety of each other and the community.

Here's wishing you all the blessings of a fruitful fall, St. Gregory’s community is alive and well.

Very Rev. Nicholas Clavin, Pastor