

CHURCH OF SAINT GREGORY THE GREAT
242-20 88TH AVENUE, BELLEROSE, NY 11426

Week of February 21, 2021
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



LENTEN VESPER SERIES

**MY LENTEN JOURNEY WITH
JESUS**

JESUS, MY FRIEND

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH
7:30PM**

**Guest preacher:
Msgr. Edward Ryan**

Parish Mission Statement:

St. Gregory the Great Parish, established in 1936, is a welcoming Catholic community serving the people of Bellerose, Floral Park, and environs. Pursuing holiness through the Eucharist, we strive to live out Jesus Christ's mandate of service, evangelization, and establishment of justice for all. Embracing the diversity and talents of our members, we seek the participation of everyone on the journey.

Parish Staff:

Very Rev. John O'Connor, Pastor
Rev. Johnson Nedungadan, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Arthur Cutter
Deacon Robert Zeuner
Sr. Patricia Anglin, O.P., Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation
Ms. Lynn Alaimo, Academy Principal
Mr. Bart Haggerty, Director of Music Ministry
Msgr. Edward A. Ryan, Pastor Emeritus
Msgr. Joseph Cunningham, Pastor Emeritus
Mr. John Reh, Civil Trustee
Mrs. Patricia Brandt, Civil Trustee

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00PM
Sunday: 8:00AM; 9:15AM; 11:00AM; 12:30PM; 5:15PM
Weekdays:
Monday - Friday: 9:00AM
Saturday Morning: 9:00AM
Holydays: Vigil Mass: 7:30PM
9:00AM; 7:30PM



Eucharistic Devotion: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place every Tuesday from the conclusion of the 9:00AM Mass until 10:30AM. Every First Friday of the month, there will be Eucharistic Adoration for Divine Mercy from the conclusion of the 9:00AM Mass until 10:30AM.

Contact Information:

Parish Office:

242-20 88th Ave.
Phone 718-347-3707
Fax 718-347-0583
Parish Website: saintgregorythegreat.com
Parish Email: stgregoffice@aol.com
Miss Jennifer Kalin, Parish Receptionist
Mrs. Patricia McMenam, Parish Secretary
Mr. Peter Varol, Parish Bookkeeper
Office Hours:
Monday-Tuesday-Thursday-Friday 9:00AM - 4:00PM
Wednesdays 9:00AM - 7:00PM
Saturdays 9:00AM - 11:00AM
Sundays 9:00AM - 2:00PM

Office of Faith Formation

Gregorian Hall
Phone 718-347-0525
Sr. Patricia Anglin, O.P., Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation
Ms. Kathy LaVache, Secretary
Office Hours:
Tuesday 10:30AM - 3:30PM
Wednesday 10:30AM - 3:30PM
Thursday 10:30AM - 3:30PM
Sunday 10:15AM - 11:30AM

St. Gregory the Great Catholic Academy of Bellerose

Address 244-44 87th Ave.
Phone 718-343-5053
School Website: sgtgca.org
Ms. Lynn Alaimo, Principal
Mrs. Camille Gunning, Secretary

Baptism: Baptism is celebrated on the Second Sunday of each month at 2:00PM and on the Fourth Saturday of each month at 12:00Noon. Please call the Parish Office to make an appointment to meet with Deacon Zeuner.

Sacrament of Penance: The Sacrament of Penance is offered each Saturday at 1:00PM. and at other times by appointment with one of our priests.

Marriage: A couple planning marriage must make an appointment with one of our priests or deacons at least 6 months in advance of the marriage.

A WARM WELCOME. If you are new to our parish, please feel free to introduce yourself to one of the priests or deacons after Mass today. We kindly invite you to come to the Parish Office and register as a member of St. Gregory's. Registration is important for all parishioners because then we are able to issue sponsor letters for Baptism, Confirmation and Matrimony. We also can provide end of the year statements of your contributions to the church through regular use of the envelopes. We can also help you with letters of recommendation for employment, schools, etc. Your registration will also help us with our parish census by knowing the number of Catholics in the Bellerose/Floral Park area. Thank you and welcome.



SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS - As part of the Church's call to evangelization, we invite you to take an extra bulletin to a friend or neighbor in the community who may inquire about St. Gregory's. Also, check in on our elderly folks and those others who may not be getting out by making a phone call or visit.

CHURCH REOPENING. The church is open for Mass. We have the regular Sunday schedule and the 9:00AM weekday Mass. Because of the limited 25% capacity, you will see that rows have been designated by the staff to ensure social distancing. The church is divided into three sections for families, couples living under the same roof, and individuals. Please make sure where you are sitting has blue tape in front of you. We ask everyone's patience, cooperation and flexibility in your routine. Also, please do not feel the rush to receive Holy Communion. Blue lines have been placed in the center aisle to help give you perspective. This distancing is for everyone's safety and well-being. We will continue to update information as we are directed by civil government and share diocesan norms as we receive them. Thanks again for your cooperation and don't forget your mask!



CHURCH ETIQUETTE - A reminder to all parishioners to turn off cell phones before entering the church. Also, a reminder during the winter months that it's long been part of the Christian tradition that men do not cover their heads in church. Please don't forget to take off your hats, Gentlemen.



Thomas F. Van Buskirk
Board Chair

Lynn M. Alaimo
Principal

ST. GREGORY THE GREAT CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Dear Alum of St. Gregory the Great Catholic Academy:

We can all agree that St. Greg's has graduated many outstanding students, who have gone to do well in life.

As everyone is aware, the year 2020 was devastating to so many people due to COVID. One effect on the St. Gregory community was the cancellation of the June 2020 Annual Gregorian Festival, our largest school fundraiser.

We need your help! Each day St. Gregory's continues to provide an in-person, excellent, faith-based education to hundreds of terrific, happy children. Parents, similar to yours, continue to make great sacrifices to send their children to St. Gregory's. Annual tuition per student is an average of \$5,800 per year.

St. Gregory's is blessed to have wonderful, highly qualified, dedicated teachers and staff who provide individualized instruction so that each child in grades Nursery through Grade 8 reach their highest potential. You can visit the school website at <https://sgtgca.org> to see the phenomenal work that is going on and get a view of the Academy in action.

As an alumnus, please join us in keeping the "Green and Gold" legacy of St. Gregory's alive for today's students.

Add your family name to the list of alumni on our Academy website and consider a donation.

St. Gregory the Great Catholic Academy Levels of Giving:

Angel - \$2,000	Trustee - \$1,000
Educator - \$500	Patron - \$250
Scholar - \$100	Benefactor - \$50

All contributions may be made by online at <https://sgtgca.org/donate>.

Thank you in advance for whatever donation you can provide.

May God continue to bless you and your families.

Sincerely,
St. Gregory the Great Catholic Academy
Board of Directors

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Week of February 21, 2021

SUNDAY

No events scheduled

MONDAY

No events scheduled

TUESDAY

ADORATION 9:30AM Church

WEDNESDAY

LENTEN VESPER SERIES - Jesus My Friend

7:30PM Church

THURSDAY

No events scheduled

FRIDAY

STATIONS OF THE CROSS 7:30PM Church

SATURDAY

SCRIPTURE SHARING 9:45AM Gathering Space

PENANCE 1:00PM Church

REMEMBER: The Sacrament of **Penance** is celebrated every week at St. Gregory's. **Confessions** are heard every Saturday at 1:00PM and by calling the rectory for an appointment. Don't neglect God's Gift of **Reconciliation**. "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His mercy endures forever!"



Lenten Regulations for Fasting and Abstinence

Abstinence: The Church requires all the faithful who have reached their 14th year of age to abstain totally from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

Fasting: All the faithful between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive are also bound to observe the fasting regulation on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This involves limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Light sustenance may be taken at 2 other occasions in the day.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Week of February 21, 2021

SUN. FEB. 21ST

8AM Peter Pizzicarola
9:15AM Members of the Purgatorial Society
11AM Cornelio, Maria, Santiago, Laura
Martinez & Adiola Jaramillo
12:30PM Elizabeth Carolan
5:15PM All the People of the Parish

MON. FEB. 22ND

9AM Msgr. Gerard Arella

TUES. FEB. 23RD

9AM Craig Birdsall

WED. FEB. 24TH

9AM Reimer Southerland

THURS. FEB. 25TH

9AM Marykuty Thomas

FRI. FEB. 26TH

9AM Sara & John Kraus

SAT. FEB. 27TH

9AM Grace Tassiello; For those dearly
departed
5PM Robert Jacoby (Birth. Rem.)

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:



FOR THE SICK

Motchkavitz Family, Robert & Lynn
Luckner, Henry London, Josephine
Dermot, Mildred D. Lawson, Angie
Delrios, Molly Delrios, Lori & Peter
Ferrara, Grace & Kenny Leuze

FOR THE DECEASED

Alfred P. Lucia, Eileen Jennings

OPEN MASS INTENTIONS FOR MARCH 2021. MARCH IS THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT. No need to wait! If you would like to have an Announced Mass offered for a loved one or for a Special Intention this month please contact the Parish Office with your request. The following dates are currently available:

Saturday, March 13 – 9AM Mass
Sunday, March 14 – 11AM
Sunday, March 21 – 11AM
Sunday, March 28 – 8AM

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

THE PASTOR'S DESK

2/21/21

Somebody called the Rectory at 12:45AM on Ash Wednesday morning trying to find out the Mass Schedule. Indeed, it was very much a wake-up call. While I would have preferred they call when I am not sleeping, it demonstrates the level of excitement Ash Wednesday brings. But not just Ash Wednesday, I think all of Lent has a special place in the hearts of Catholics. Maybe not quick enough but Winter is passing to Spring; the sun is rising earlier and setting later; children understand that, whether remote or in person, the end of another school year is approaching. For Catholics, I think Lent is the opportunity to strive and be the Christians we want to be: kinder, more thoughtful, giving and prayerful. That's why it's such a big deal. We want to be transformed but we get tired, lose focus and return to bad habits after a time.

At St. Gregory's, even during the pandemic, the parish has loads of opportunities to help you on your Lenten Journey. Daily Mass, Wednesday Vespers, Friday Stations, in addition to weekly and monthly adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, all demonstrate that we take prayer together seriously. The Clothing Drive and participating in Operation Rice Bowl all heighten our awareness that Christ is present in the needy and we should have a preferential towards the poor. Prayerfully supporting those -young and old - who will be receiving the Easter Sacraments, hopefully make us more aware and appreciative of the reality that we can receive the Sacraments daily. But those tools are only helpful if you use them and get excited about what Lent means for you and your families.

The excitement is that, particularly in a pandemic or precisely because of the pandemic, we want to be different; we want to be changed. The ashes sprinkled on our heads reminds us of our needed humility as Lent begins. But I hope you showered since Ash Wednesday! Will people see my humility as the season continues: Reverencing the Divine and looking upon others as truly equal is a good sign of the season. Humility will increase if I can use this time to change. But that will only be assured if I use this Lent wisely, to become more a person of prayer, a Christian of charity; a creature of the Creator who formed me from the very dust to which I will return.

There is an excitement about all the things that are happening here at St. Gregory's. That excitement is heightened during Lent but it is not limited to Lent. I guess we all want to be better people, better Christians. Lent is our time to do that. I guess we all just need a wake-up call. In a very real way, mine came this Lent when Ash Wednesday was only 45 minutes old.

Blessed Lent to all!

Father O'Connor

FUEL COLLECTION. The annual "Fuel Collection"



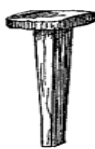
is taking place. There is an additional envelope in the church packet that requests your generous contribution to defray the costs of the parish. We ask every parishioner to be as generous as possible so that our parish buildings may remain warm and comfortable for everybody. Extra (white) "Fuel Collection" envelopes are in the church today for those who did not receive it in the mail. Thanks.

COLLECTIONS - The collections for the week of February 14th amounted to \$8,380 for the parish. Thank you for your generosity.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS - Parishioners who need a total of their 2020 church contributions, using the envelopes, should feel free to contact the Parish Office during regular office hours, Monday to Friday, 9:00AM to 12 Noon, and 1:30 - 4:00PM.

MAGNIFICAT - Complementary copies of the monthly prayer missal *Magnificat* for the month of February are available by the doors of the church. It's a collection of daily prayers, poetry and scripture. It is an ideal addition as the Holy Season of Lent approaches. Please take home a copy for yourself or a loved one.

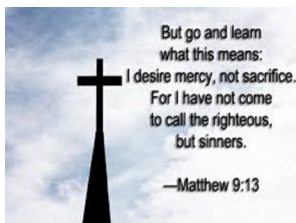
A NAIL FOR MY POCKET - Everyone is invited to take from the basket, in the sanctuary, a simple nail for your pocket. Carry it mindfully and prayerfully during this holy Lenten season. During Lent we are asked to unite our sacrifices and sufferings to those of Christ so that what we do can be more beneficial to those around us and the Church Universal. Please take only one and carry it mindfully so that you may be led to a greater appreciation of what the Lord endured.



THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS - The parish walks in the footsteps of Jesus each Friday evening of Lent at 7:30PM. The celebration of the Via Crucis – Way of the Cross – is one of the Church's most beloved devotions. Come out and Journey with Jesus on the Friday evenings of Lent.



MINISTERS' MINI-RETREAT - SATURDAY, MARCH 6TH - 11:00AM - 12:30PM. All Parish Liturgical Ministers are invited to join Deacon John Warren from Our Lady of the Snows, Floral Park, and reflect on the Lord's injunction: "Go and learn the meaning of the words 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice' "



sacrifice' " at this Lenten mini-retreat in the church. Prayer will take place before the Blessed Sacrament and conclude with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. All ministers will have the opportunity to renew their ministerial commitment. All ministers must RSVP to the Parish Office by March 3rd.

OPERATION RICE BOWL. St. Gregory's is participating in Catholic Relief Services' *Operation Rice Bowl* this year as our Lenten Almsgiving. Take home a packet with your ready to make rice bowl and some prayers and information. Each week you can add a little to your rice bowl as you prayerfully deny yourself so that others can have needed food & supplies. Rice bowls are to be returned Palm Sunday, April 28th.



LENTEN VESPERS SERIES

My Lenten Journey with Jesus begins this Wednesday at 7:30PM. We are happy to welcome back to St. Gregory's Msgr. Ned Ryan, our Pastor Emeritus. Msgr. Ryan might be familiar to many as he continues to celebrate Mass for us on the weekends!!!! Msgr. Ryan will reflect on: **Jesus, My Friend.** Future themes and speakers are:
 Mar 3 *Jesus, Companion* – Very Rev. Msgr. Kevin McBrien
 Mar 10 *Jesus, My Teacher* – Rev. Szymon Galazyn
 Mar 17 *Jesus, My Healer* – Rev. Frank Tumino
 Mar 24 *Jesus, My Lord* – Msgr. Al LoPinto

Vespers are every Wednesday evening of Lent at 7:30PM. The Lenten program will conclude on Mar 31 as our Young People reflect on *Jesus, My Cross-Bearer* and lead the Living Stations of the Cross. Make plans to join us as we sing the Evening Prayer of the Church and Journey with Jesus this Lent.

FIRST PENANCE -- Our parish children will receive First Penance on Saturday, March 13th, at 11:00AM. Please keep them and their families in your prayers as they mark this milestone of God's Mercy. While you can't join them in church for this celebration because of social distancing protocols this year, please pray for them as they receive Penance and look forward to Holy Communion for the first time.



ST. VINCENT DEPAUL CLOTHING DRIVE will take place at St. Gregory's the weekend of March 13th-14th. Place your donated clothing in bags under the chandelier in the Gathering Space when you come for Mass. Plan now to do some early Spring Cleaning and help those in need. Please also share the word with friends and neighbors!



ST. JOSEPH'S DAY - March 19th - Honor the Husband of Mary, the Guardian of the Redeemer and Patron of the Universal Church with 9:00AM morning Mass. Hopefully, this feast next year, after the pandemic subsides, will be followed by a Community Celebration of St. Joseph's Table, in the Oak Room. Pope Francis has declared 2021 as a Year in Honor of St. Joseph. Watch for other observations as we move further through the year.



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



GIVECENTRAL- St. Greg's is now accepting online donations through GiveCentral, a new safe, secure, and paperless way to make your contributions. GiveCentral is designed specifically for Catholic organizations and hundreds of parishes have found success with it. It is used widespread throughout our diocese. The site allows you to make one time or recurring payments on a schedule that works best for you, using any credit or debit card or electronic (ACH) bank withdrawal. It's similar to automatically paying other bills you might have. Having flexible giving options will make it easier for you to support St. Gregory's.

Please visit GiveCentral and take a few minutes to set up your contributions. Your generosity and support at this time are both much needed and greatly appreciated!

HERE'S HOW TO SIGN UP FOR GIVECENTRAL:

1. Visit www.givecentral.org and click on the **FIND MY CHARITY** button.
2. Type our parish name or our zip code (**11426**) in the search box and click on our picture when it appears below.
3. Choose an **EVENT** to which you would like to donate, entering the amount, frequency and date, then click **ADD TO MY GIFT BASKET**. You may **ADD MORE** or **CHECKOUT** at any time.
4. When you're ready, click **CHECKOUT** to view and verify your pending gifts.
5. Click **CONTINUE** then **COMPLETE PROFILE**.
6. Complete the simple registration form, then click **REGISTER AND CONFIRM GIFT** to submit. That's it-you're registered! Check your email inbox for a GiveCentral welcome email from support@givecentral.org (Sometimes your computer might place that first email in the "Spam" folder.) You can return to GiveCentral at any time to make changes to your information or contributions. It's that simple. Visit www.givecentral.org/login and enter your username and password to log in – any time, any place.

BOOK CLUB - The selection for the Zoom meeting that will take place on Monday, March 8th, is *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides.

SISTERS OF ST. DOMINIC of Amityville Celebrate Irish Night on Saturday, March 6th. This year's festivities will take place virtually and will offer you an opportunity to gather together for liturgy, followed by a joyful program of song, dance and Irish spirit! Event ticket, raffle tickets and more will be available on the website, www.sistersofstdominic.org/irishnight2021.

NY CHAPTER - MARIA GORETTI NETWORK - MGN is an online support group for all those affected in any way by abuse (physical, sexual, mental, emotional, financial, etc.) to experience healing in God's love and freedom through forgiveness. Abuse is never your fault and you are not alone. Contact nyc@mgoretti.org for more information or visit www.mgoretti.org.

CAR REBATES- MY CAR WENT TO HEAVEN!



The St. Vincent DePaul Society will give \$50-\$100 to St. Gregory's for each car, truck or van donated (running or not). If you or someone you know has an old or neglected vehicle that needs disposal, please call the Society of St. Vincent DePaul at 718-491-2525.

