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

Week of November 28, 2021
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



*Christ our Hope
Illuminate our hearts with Your grace.
Enlarge our vision so that we recognize our
kinship with all the people of the world.
Help us to give to others in ways that meet their
deepest needs.
We await Your coming with gratitude.*

Amen

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 McMenamin, Parish Secretary
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: sgtgea.org
Ms. Lynn Alaimo, Principal
Mrs. Catherine McMahan, 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 we will be able to issue sponsor letters for Baptism, Confirmation and Matrimony. We can give end of the year statements of your contributions to the church through regular use of the envelopes. We can help you with letters of recommendation for employment, schools, etc. Your registration will also help us with our parish census in knowing the number of Catholics in the Bellerose/Floral Park/Queens Village 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 anyone else needing to stay indoors by making a phone call or visit.



PARISHIONER CHECK-IN - Father O'Connor recently sent a letter to all registered parishioners to let them know that the parish has "re-opened," so to speak, and to welcome them back to our little red tiled roof church. All of St. Gregory's is encouraged to reach out to those who are still "missing." They are the people you sat across from in church or would chat outside with after Mass and have yet to resurface from the pandemic. Kindly touch base with those individuals and families who are part of our larger Parish Family. It's important to find out how they are doing and see if there is anything that the parish can offer them at this time. Who knows? They might simply want you to share your experiences about returning to Mass. Please note that all parish organizations, groups and societies have been given the "green light" to re-awaken from the pause of the pandemic.



WHITE WELCOME ENVELOPES are located in the church for those who are new in the parish, for those who would like to receive weekly envelopes and for those who may have forgotten their envelope today. Thank you for all your support for your parish as we try to meet our weekly needs.





FAITH FORMATION

FAITH FORMATION CLASSES - If you have not registered your child, please call the Faith Formation Office at 718-347-0525. All new registrations must be done in person.



CHRISTIAN INITIATION - Do you know a family member or friend who is interested in becoming a Catholic? The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a wonderful process in our parish and available to those who feel called to the Catholic Faith. The RCIA is also available



for those Catholics who have not yet received First Eucharist or Confirmation. If you have any questions or would like additional information, call Sr. Patricia Anglin (718- 347-0525), and she will be happy to assist you.

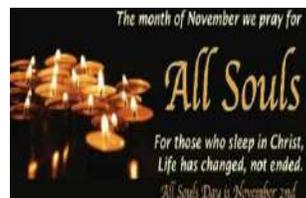
SUNDAY SCRIPTURE SHARING - Looking for a greater opportunity to explore and appreciate Sacred Scripture? Now is the time! So come and join us on Saturday mornings from 9:45-10:45AM, under the chandelier of the Gathering Space, as we spend time with the readings that will be proclaimed at Mass on Saturday evening and Sunday. Through prayer and sharing, we hope to have the Scriptures come more alive. *WERE NOT OUR HEARTS ON FIRE WHILE HE SPOKE TO US ON THE WAY AND OPENED THE SCRIPTURES TO US?*



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 Parish Office for an appointment. Don't neglect God's Gift of **Reconciliation**. "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His mercy endures forever!"



ALL SOULS ENVELOPES are available in the sacristy today for those who did not receive them in their mailing. In November, we remember and pray for the souls of the dead especially our family members, friends and fellow parishioners. Feel free to take an envelope and fill in the names of your beloved dead for whom you wish to have prayers offered during November. Return the envelope with your offering in the collection basket or at the Parish Office.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Week of November 28, 2021

SUNDAY

AA OPEN 7:00PM Convent Basement

MONDAY

ARISE 4:00-5:30PM Gathering Space

TUESDAY

ADORATION 9:30AM Church

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY 12:00PM Green Room

ARISE 1:00-2:30PM Gathering Space

GOLDEN AGE LEISURE GROUP 1:00-4:00PM Oak Room

BOY SCOUTS 6:30PM Oak Room

ADULT CHOIR 7:30PM Church

ARISE 7:30PM Gathering Space

CHAMBER SINGERS 9:00PM Church

WEDNESDAY

ARISE 4:00PM Gathering Space

ADVENT EVENING OF PRAYER & PRAISE 7:30PM Church

THURSDAY

QIGONG 6:30PM Oak Room

FRIDAY

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION 9:30AM Church

AA STEP 7:00PM Convent Basement

AA CLOSED 8:30PM Convent Basement

SATURDAY

SCRIPTURE SHARING 9:45AM Gathering Space
BEREAVEMENT GROUP 10:00AM Rectory Basement

PENANCE 1:00PM Church



THE GIVING TREE IS COMING!

As usual our Giving Tree will be placed in the Gathering Space. You are asked to consider helping families in need and our parish homebound to have a more joyful Christmas. This year our gifts will be distributed to Catholic Charities, Providence House, St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish and Latino Unidos at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish. The most requested gifts by all of these groups are gift cards. You can help St. Gregory the Great Academy, at no extra cost to you, by purchasing your gift cards through the Academy's SCRIPS fundraiser, no later than December 6th.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Week of November 28, 2021

SUN. NOV. 28TH

8AM Regina & Bill Splees

9:15AM Members of the Purgatorial Society

11AM Gertrude & Lester Cashin, Elaine Miles

12:30PM Patricia Conlon

5:15PM All the People of the Parish

MON. NOV. 29TH

9AM Anna Costanzo

TUES. NOV. 30TH

9AM Rose Giglio

WED. DEC. 1ST

9AM Albert Matukonis

THURS. DEC. 2ND

9AM Guillermo Martinez

FRI. DEC. 3RD

9AM John A. Neston

SAT. DEC. 4TH

9AM John & Kathleen Dirscherl & Barbara Taggart, Guadalupe & Reynaldo Velayo & Lourdes Quijano, Jose Freitas, Antoinette Slattery (3rd Anniv. Rem.)

5PM Antonia Buttigieg

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:



FOR THE SICK

Carmen Abreu, Anne Previdi, Mary DiMambro, Aramas Family, Janet Littlefield, Joan Devaney, Lori Ferrara, Grace & Kenny Leuze

FOR THE DECEASED

Hope



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE PASTOR'S DESK

11/28/2021

Happy New Year!

You read that correctly. Happy New Year. As far as I'm concerned there are three New Year celebrations each year: the civil one on January 1st, the parish one each September, and lastly, Advent, which begins a new liturgical or Church Year at the end of November/beginning of December. Of the three Advent is my favorite.

It's a shame that Advent gets lost in the secular and stressful "Christmas Hype." Advent has a flavor all its own. It's a time of excitement and expectation. It not only awaits the yearly celebration of Christ's birth on December 25th but more importantly looks to prepare us for Christ's return. It's a time of light in darkness and quiet reflection. As the days get shorter and the darkness more encompassing, Advent reminds us of the True Light of the world. The prologue to St. John's Gospel says: "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Moreover, before constant radio and TV, computers, and video games, the evening used to be a time of reflection - pausing as nature went to sleep so to speak. Advent reflection guides us to search out and appreciate the Awaited One who continues to come into the lives and hearts of those who seek Him.

Advent also introduces us to some pretty colorful people. Isaiah, Zachariah and Elizabeth, John the Baptist, Mary, and Joseph. Each of these had God come into his or her life in a special or profound way; each of them were prepared to seize the moment when given the chance. But what about us? Will we recognize the moment of God's coming into our lives? Will we allow God to alter our lives as he altered human history?

At the parish most of our opportunities are at the beginning of Advent. We understand how crazy the Holiday Season is from Thanksgiving through the New Year. But Advent can't be like Ordinary Time. The church will look different. What will be different in your world? This week's bulletin insert has the prayers for lighting the Advent Wreath and so much more of what is happening at St. Gregory's. This Wednesday we will have sung Evening Prayer and be inspired by the words of Father Alonzo Cox, Pastor of St. Martin de Porres Parish in Brooklyn, as he sets us on a firm and straight path to prepare for the Lord's Coming. Next Monday, I will lead a fun evening looking at the texts of some Christmas carols. Everyone knows the first verse but what about the next verses? What do they say about Jesus? What do they say about me? Of course, during that time, we will also light our tree and sing some songs as we buy our gifts to place under the Giving Tree. Yes, there is a lot going on this Advent and rightly so for we begin again to reflect on the Saving Mysteries of the Son!

Try as best as possible this Advent to wait, watch and reflect. December 25th will come and go as it always does no matter the hype. But try to await Christ. Recognize Him in the Sacraments, in the Scriptures, in His Body – the Church. Be with Him in the darkness and in the quiet.

Happy New Year, Everyone! Better yet, Happy Advent!

Father O'Connor



WELCOME BISHOP BRENNAN! On Tuesday, the Feast of St. Andrew, the Diocese will welcome Bishop Robert Brennan as the Eighth Bishop of Brooklyn in its 168 year history. The Mass of Installation will take place at 2:00PM. The Liturgy will be televised on NET-TV and perhaps some local networks. Bishop Brennan spent most of his life on Long Island before being named the Bishop of Columbus, Ohio. He now comes to Brooklyn, closer to his family and parents who are still living in Nassau Country. Please pray for him on a special day in his life and our lives as the Church of Brooklyn and Queens. Beginning Wednesday we will pray for him by name each day during the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass.

COLLECTIONS will be noted in next week's Bulletin due to early Thanksgiving deadline.



2021 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL continues at St. Gregory's. Tallies show that there have been 227 **pledges made totaling \$75,229**. So we are just at 55% of our goal of 400 pledges. Thanks to all who already have made a pledge to this year's Appeal. Everyone is encouraged to take part in this year's Appeal by making a generous donation so that we can reach our **assigned goal of \$96,587**. Please help us close the \$21,358 gap to our goal. Pledges -large and small - can be made by all the working members of the household. Extra pledge envelopes are in the church today. You may mail in or return your pledge commitment in the collection, and we will deliver it directly to the Appeal Office. No pledge is too small. Together "We Are The Church!"

GIFTS FROM BETHLEHEM SALE – THIS WEEK-END

Samer Awwad; a representative from a nonprofit organization called Land of Peace, will be with us speaking about the Christian situation in the Holy Land and selling Crucifixes, religious artwork, and rosaries - all made of olive wood, which is native to Israel and Bethlehem. Since tourism has greatly declined, Christian families in the Holy Land, who depend on tourists, have been severely affected. The goal of this mission is to build a Charitable Hospital in Bethlehem and help the poor and needy families in Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Sale of these goods will help them very much and give you the opportunity to have “something” authentic from the Holy Land. Please browse and buy some articles. It is for a good cause and also a help to your personal devotion. The sale will be in the Gathering Space after all the Masses.



ADULT CHOIR has returned to singing at the 11:00AM Sunday Mass. Rehearsals are held on Tuesday evenings at 7:30PM in the Church. New members are most welcome as we begin our preparations for Christmas. We are especially in need of additional male voices. No previous experience is needed - only the ability to “carry a tune”. Please contact Bart Haggerty at bart@saintgregorythegreat.com or through the Parish Office for additional information, or just come to the next rehearsal on Tuesday, November 30th.

ADVENT EVENING OF PRAYER & PRAISE!:



Wednesday, December 1st, at 7:30PM, in the Church.. You are invited to join with our ministers and the entire parish family, as we lead in prayer, praise and meditation on *Preparing our hearts to hear the voice of one calling, prepare the way of the Lord* by Rev. Alonzo Cox, Pastor of St. Martin de Porres Parish, Crown Heights. Join us as we prayerfully prepare for His Birth.

CHRIST OF THE CAROLS - Monday Evening, December 6th, at 7:30PM in the Rectory Basement Meeting Room. Come and reflect on the importance of hymns and some theological aspects of some favorite Christmas Carols. “O Come, O Come, Emanuel” and a wide selection of Christmas carols will explain not only the Incarnation, but beyond Bethlehem. O Come, O Come and join us on Monday, December 6th.



THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE



CONCEPTION is Wednesday, December 8th - Please mark your calendars now as we celebrate the beginning of Mary’s Life. Masses at St. Gregory’s are the Tuesday Vigil Mass at 7:30PM and on the Holy Day itself at 9:00AM and 7:30PM. Mass will be preceded by the recitation of the Holy Rosary at 7:00PM, 8:30AM and 7:00PM. Please make plans to come out together as a family as we honor Our Lady, Patroness of our Diocese and Patroness of our country.

RENAISSANCE GROUP’S CHRISTMAS



GATHERING will take place on December 10th, at 7:00PM in the Oak Room. Please call Annette 718-343-4033 or Maureen 718-347-8781 to let them know if you will be joining us and for more details.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING & CAROLING



Join us on Saturday, December 11th, at 6:00PM, on the great lawn next to the church. Join us for a live Nativity, the blessing and lighting of our great tree, candy canes and other surprises. All are invited!!

ANNUAL WORLDWIDE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS CANDLE LIGHTING

- This prayer services unites families and friends around the globe to honor and remember all children, who have died at any age, from any cause, recently or many years ago. Our parish will join in this remembrance on Sunday, December 12th, at 7:00PM in the Church. If you wish to have your child’s name read at the service, please call the Parish Office by Friday, December 10th.



BOOK CLUB - The selection for the next meeting that will take place on Monday, December 13th, at 7:00PM in the Rectory Basement, is *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett.

A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS



will be presented on Sunday, December 19th at 3:00PM in the Church. Join us for this seasonal presentation of word and song of the Advent and Christmas seasons featuring the Adult Choir and Folk Group. Admission is free and the program is suitable for all ages. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ST. GREGORY THE GREAT CATHOLIC ACADEMY is happy to announce that it will again have its **SCRIPS** (gift cards) fundraiser. Ordering your gift cards through St. Gregory's will save you time and benefit the School. All orders are due by December 6th, to insure that cards are received in plenty of time for Christmas. Forms are available in the Gathering Space and at the School. Orders can be dropped off at the Parish Office and School....Also...

SWEATSHIRT FUNDRAISER SALE! Support the school while getting your child or family member a great sweatshirt. This hooded green sweatshirt has been approved as a part of the official uniform. The cost of each sweatshirt is \$35. Order forms are available at School Office and in the Gathering Space.

"TOYS FOR TOTS" CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE will take place on Saturday, December 11th, 12:00-5:00PM. Please bring a "new" toy or game for a needy child to the School Parking Lot, under the tent. If the gift is wrapped, please indicate if it is for a boy or girls and the age.

ST. GREGORY'S SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION Anyone interested in helping with our Alumni Association please call Fr. O'Connor at 718-347-3707. We are looking to have at least one Class Ambassador for Graduating Classes from the Pioneer Class up to the Class of 2010.



THANK YOU to all who donated items to the Food Drive to benefit the Food Pantry at Our Lady of Lourdes. If you are in need of food, please contact the Parish Office and leave a message for Sr. Pat Anglin.



CAR REBATES - The St. Vincent DePaul Society will give \$50-\$100 to St. Gregory's for each car, truck or van (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.



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.