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

Week of December 12, 2021
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



*Christ our Joy,
Brighten our homes with Your presence.
Clarify our vision so that we might see You in the
people we cherish.
Make every holiday activity an opportunity to spread
Your light and love.
We await Your coming with delight.
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 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

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?*



CHRISTMAS GIFT TO MY CHURCH. A special Christmas collection for the parish is being taken up now before Christmas Day. The Christmas letter from the pastor asks that every parishioner prayerfully make a fair share offering during this holy season. Extra Christmas collection envelopes are in the church today for those who did not receive the mailing. The whole Pastoral Staff thanks you in advance for your "Christmas Gift to My Church" this year.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Week of December 12, 2021

SUNDAY

FAITH FORMATION PAGEANT PRACTICE
11:30AM
ATHLETIC ASSOC. 12:00-9:00PM Gregorian Hall
RCIA 12:30PM Green Room
CANDLE LIGHTING VIGIL 7:00PM Church
AA OPEN 7:00PM Convent Basement

MONDAY

ATHLETIC ASSOC. 4:00-9:00PM Gregorian Hall
BOOK CLUB 7:00PM Rectory Basement
HOLY NAME SOCIETY 7:30PM Oak Room

TUESDAY

ADORATION 9:30AM Church
PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY 12:00PM Green Room
GOLDEN AGE LEISURE GROUP 1:00-4:00PM Oak Room
ATHLETIC ASSOC. 4:00-9:00PM Gregorian Hall
BOY SCOUTS 6:30PM Oak Room
ADULT CHOIR 7:30PM Church
ARISE 7:30PM Gathering Space

WEDNESDAY

ATHLETIC ASSOC. 4:00-9:00PM
FOLK GROUP 7:15PM Rectory Basement

THURSDAY

ARISE 4:00PM Gregorian Hall
ATHLETIC ASSOC. 4:00-9:00PM Gregorian Hall
QIGONG 6:30PM Oak Room
AOH 7:00PM

FRIDAY

ATHLETIC ASSOC. 4:00-9:00PM Gregorian Hall
AA STEP 7:00PM Convent Basement
AA CLOSED 8:30PM Convent Basement

SATURDAY

ATHLETIC ASSOC. 9:00AM - 9:00PM Gregorian Hall
SCRIPTURE SHARING 9:45AM Gathering Space
PENANCE 1:00PM Church

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Week of December 12, 2021

SUN. DEC. 12TH

8AM Erlinda Escoto
9:15AM Members of the Purgatorial Society
11AM Aurelio Lucero Tomas,
Maureen O'Brien
12:30PM June & Ed Jandovitz
5:15PM All the People of the Parish

MON. DEC. 13TH

9AM Mary DiPalma (1st Anniv. Rem.)

TUES. DEC. 14TH

9AM Deceased members of the Eiffe, Soos,
& Cantwell Families

WED. DEC. 15TH

9AM John A. Barrett Sr. (Bday Rem.)

THURS. DEC. 16TH

9AM Carol Cancilla

FRI. DEC. 17TH

9AM Mary Vozzo

SAT. DEC. 18TH

9AM Msgr. Gerard Arella, Mary K. Carroll
5PM Joseph, Maryann, Antonia, Nazzareno,
& Josephine Buttigieg, & Angelo, Jane,
& Michael Tabone

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:



FOR THE SICK

Anna Viola, Gerald Graff, Carmen Abreu,
Anne Previdi, Joan Devaney,
Lori Ferrara, Grace & Kenny Leuze

FOR THE DECEASED

Irene Albert

2022 MASS BOOK IS NOW OPEN. The opportunity to pray in a special way for the repose of the soul of a loved one or other prayerful intention is made available each day with announced Mass offerings. You may choose to commemorate a death anniversary, wedding anniversary, birthday remembrance or simply pray in thanksgiving. Each offering is \$20.00. Please come to the Parish Office to make special Mass offerings for your loved ones. You may also inquire about dedicating the flowers, Altar candles, bread & wine or the sanctuary lamp.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE PASTOR'S DESK

12/12/2021

Are we there, yet?

We never had a car growing up in Brooklyn. As a matter of fact, out of the seven O'Connors only my sister, Maureen and I drive. So, we never had the experience of being packed together on a 13-hour drive to Disney, for example. I also never experienced the dreaded car question: Are we there yet? On the old subway cars, it was even easy for a little kid like me to follow the stops on the linear "subway line map" over the window one at a time as we went into the city. I knew we weren't there yet.

Even though the Christmas parties and gatherings have been going on since Thanksgiving, on Gaudete Sunday, this Third Sunday of Advent, we can finally answer: "almost," "pretty much" to "Are we there yet? With Christmas Eve twelve days away, it's certainly closer than Thanksgiving is in the rear-view mirror. But is Christmas Day the journey's end?

As the People of God here in Bellerose, Floral Park and Queens Village, when we wonder out loud "Are we there yet?" we can't just be talking about the Christmas Festival. Are we where we want to be as a parish family? Are we satisfied with our place in this Christian Community? Are we comfortable with the distances we have journeyed in our patience and generosity towards others? Even in the midst of the pandemic, are we able to measure the progress made since last Christmas on how we view or participate in all that is St. Gregory's?

So are we there yet? I guess the answer depends on each and every one of us. There is certainly much to do and a ways to go to have our parish shine forth as the face of Jesus in the world: a task that in reality will never be completely accomplished in human time. ***Our upcoming Parish Synod on Saturday, January 15th, will be a great opportunity to measure our pulse and look around to see how we are doing.***


The Birth of Jesus turns our minds to giving and generosity -"God so loved the world that He gave His only Son." But giving of ourselves half heartedly or only once a year could be a token gesture or disingenuous. How do we give ourselves over to Jesus and this parish family week after week, opportunity after opportunity? That is the challenge of the Christian not only at Christmas but throughout a lifetime.

Are we there yet? Christmas Day is right around the corner. But we need to go way further than that.

God Bless and Happy Advent!


Father O'Connor

ROSE COLLORED CANDLE AND VESTMENTS.



The custom of using rose-colored vestments on Gaudete Sunday (the Third Sunday of Advent) is to be maintained whenever possible. The name "Gaudete" comes from the traditional Latin entrance antiphon, or introit, sung at the Mass (though now a days it is usually replaced by a hymn). The term may be broadly translated as "rejoice" and refers to the importance of the theme of Christian joy, even in the midst of a penitential season, which is reflected in the formulas and readings of the Mass. Rose Mass vestments were in use by the 1200s and the use of all the liturgical colors were standardized around the Council of Trent (1550s). The purpose of using different liturgical colors is to express the specific character of the various mysteries. The use of the diverse colors is both pedagogical and symbolic of the various liturgical feasts and seasons. The Rose color, which has never enjoyed frequent use, serves as a reminder, by using an unusual color, that we are halfway through a penitential season such as Advent and Lent.

2021 ANNUAL CATHOLIC continues at St. Gregory's. Tallies show that there have been 234 **pledges made totaling \$81,084**. So we are just at 60% 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 \$17,000 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!"

COLLECTIONS - The collection for the week of December 5th amounted to \$386 for Thanksgiving and \$4,712 for the parish. Thank you all for your generosity.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021



ADVENT WREATH. For those who have an Advent wreath at home for family prayer during this holy season, today you light the two purple candles and the pink candle.

THE GIVING TREE - Please bring your gifts **TODAY, December 12th.** If you are donating a gift, please do not wrap your gift but place it in a bag with the tag attached identifying your gift. This will make it easier to sort the gifts for each charity. Thank you - your generosity is appreciated!



CHRISTMAS PLANTS that will decorate our church throughout the Christmas Season may be donated. You may wish to donate **IN MEMORY OF** or **IN HONOR OF** a loved one. The donation is \$15.00. Christmas donation envelopes are available in the church today. It is only through your generosity that our church is decorated so beautifully for Advent and Christmas. Please return your offering in the collection or at the Parish Office.



ANNUAL WORLDWIDE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS CANDLE LIGHTING - This prayer service 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 **TONIGHT**, at 7:00PM in the Church.

BOOK CLUB - The selection for the meeting 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.



BLESSING OF BABY JESUS FIGURES on December 19th at the 9:15AM Mass. We invite all our parishioners and families to bring the statue of the Baby Jesus from the nativity scenes in their homes, under their Christmas Trees or from their front lawns. May the blessing and these images of Jesus, the Word Made Flesh, remind us that it is Christ's Mass that is celebrated every December 25th.



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2021

RECONCILIATION MONDAY – PENANCE

Monday, December 20th
After 9:30AM Mass, 1:00PM &
6:00-8:00PM

MASSES

Friday - Christmas Eve – December 24th
4:00PM – 6:00PM & 10:00PM

Saturday – Christmas Day – December 25th
8:30AM, 11:00AM & 12:30PM
(No evening Mass for Christmas Day)

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

MASSES

Friday – New Year's Eve – December 31st
9:00AM & 5:00PM

Saturday – New Year's Day – January 1st
9:00AM

RECONCILIATION MONDAY - December 20th -



Day of Reconciliation

Join with Catholics throughout the City in receiving God's Mercy before Christmas. Confessions here at St. Gregory's will be after the 9:00AM Mass, at 1:00PM and from 6:00PM to 8PM. Prepare for Christmas with the Sacrament.

PLEASE PLAN AHEAD - This year the Solemnity of Christmas and the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph fall back-to-back on Saturday, December 25th and Sunday, December 26th. There are two



celebrations taking place; two obligations to attend Holy Mass. We will have 3 Christmas Eve Masses at St. Gregory's (4:00, 6:00, 10:00PM) and 3 Masses on Christmas Day (8:30AM, 11:00AM, 12:30PM) to celebrate Christmas and 5 Masses on Sunday, December 26th, to celebrate the Holy Family (8:00, 9:15, 11:00AM, 12:30 and 5:15PM). There will also be no Confessions and **no** 5:00PM Mass on Saturday, Christmas and New Year's Days.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A **TE DEUM NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS** will be celebrated in the church at 5:00PM on Friday, December 31st.



Whether at Mass, Vespers or Benediction, it has long been a custom in Catholic churches to sing the *Te Deum*, the hymn of thanksgiving par excellence, on New Year's Eve, to thank God

for all of the blessings received over the course of the previous year. This thanksgiving is offered at the last Liturgical Rite celebrated in the Calendar Year. In Rome, the Pope and cardinals resident in the city traditionally attended the *Te Deum Ceremony* on December 31st, at the church of the Holy Name of Jesus, popularly known as "il Gesù", the mother church of the Jesuit order. In recent years, however, it has generally been celebrated at St Peter's. Everyone at St. Gregory's is invited to prepare for the New Year by attending and thanking God for the blessings of 2021 and looking forward in joyful hope to 2022.

THE PARISH SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's "SOCKTOBER!" Through your generosity almost four thousand pairs of socks were given to the needy; almost one thousand pair were collected by the Boy Scouts alone! Congratulations one and all! Everyone is invited to be part of SJM (Social Justice Ministry) as we explore Gospel Teachings and strive to put them in practice in our community. Everyone is warmly welcomed. Come and see what it's all about at our next meeting after the holidays.

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.



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.

