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

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Week of December 19, 2021  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



***Christ our Peace.  
Glow brightly in each moment.  
Enlighten our vision so that we see beyond  
the trappings of the holidays.  
Relieve us, if just for a moment of our  
worries and stress.  
We await your coming with serenity.***

***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](http://saintgregorythegreat.com)  
Parish Email: [stgregoffice@aol.com](mailto: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](http://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. The next sharing will take place on January 8th. 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.



**WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY..... WELCOME TO THE CHURCH!** St. Gregory's would like to welcome the newly baptized of November:

*Gavin Robert Appel, Richard Joseph Ardezzone III, Owen Patrick Flynn*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Week of December 19, 2021

### SUNDAY

**BAPTISM WELCOMING** 11:00AM Mass Church  
**FAITH FORMATION PAGEANT PRACTICE**  
11:30AM

**ATHLETIC ASSOC.** 12:00-9:00PM Gregorian Hall  
**RCIA** 12:30PM Green Room

**LESSONS & CAROLS** 3:00PM Church

**AA OPEN** 7:00PM Convent Basement

### MONDAY

**RECONCILIATION MONDAY**

**ATHLETIC ASSOC.** 4:00-9:00PM Gregorian Hall

### TUESDAY

**ADORATION** 9:30AM Church

**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

No events scheduled.

### FRIDAY

**AA STEP** 7:00PM Convent Basement

**AA CLOSED** 8:30PM Convent Basement

### SATURDAY

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**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.



## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Week of December 19, 2021

### **SUN. DEC. 19<sup>th</sup>**

8AM

Lawrence Reade

9:15AM

Members of the Purgatorial Society

11AM

Mildred & Robert Metzger,

Peter Yevoli (L),

Marie & Edward Joyce, Chung Family

12:30PM

George DeHaven

5:15PM

All the People of the Parish

### **MON. DEC. 20<sup>th</sup>**

9AM

James Toner

### **TUES. DEC. 21<sup>st</sup>**

9AM

Kris Hicok

### **WED. DEC. 22<sup>nd</sup>**

9AM

Cornelio, Maria, Santiago, & Laura

Martinez & Adiel Jaramillo

### **THURS. DEC. 23<sup>rd</sup>**

9AM

Lawrence P. Dowd & Patricia Armas

### **FRI. DEC. 24<sup>th</sup>**

9AM

Thomas Creamer

4PM

Elaine Kalin-Henry

6PM

Maureen Riordan-Viola

10PM

Sheila O'Brien

### **SAT. DEC. 25<sup>th</sup>**

8:30AM

Christmas Mass Remembrance

11AM

Mary Fallon

12:30PM

Maura Reddan

## **REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**



### **FOR THE SICK**

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

### **FOR THE DECEASED**

Michael McKenna, Frances McQuillan

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### THE PASTOR'S DESK

12/19/2021

Hodie Christus natus est:  
hodie Salvator apparuit:  
hodie in terra canunt angeli,  
lætantur archangeli:  
hodie exsultant iusti, dicentes:  
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluia!

*Today Christ is born:  
today the Savior has appeared:  
today the angels sing,  
the archangels rejoice:  
today the righteous rejoice, saying:  
Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!*

After twenty-three months I made it back to the city for one of my annual Christmas Concerts. A lot has changed in that time and a lot has stayed the same. I was especially glad to smell the fireplaces and wood burning stoves as I passed the brownstones near Fifth Avenue.

One of the works that caught my ear was the antiphon *Hodie, Christus Natus Est*. It was composed by Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck, who was born into a family of organists in Deventer, Netherlands, in 1562 and lived and worked his entire life in Amsterdam. The text is from Evening Prayer on Christmas Day. Four of the six lines begin with "Today." As a matter of fact, the Entrance antiphons for the Christmas Vigil Mass and Mass at Dawn also begin with "Today."

After some reflection, I realized that the use of all these "Todays" is the simple truth that Jesus is born for us today in the present tense. We are not on some archeological dig looking for stone and bones but rather in our living flesh and blood we are called to welcome Him into our hearts, homes and world at the dawn of 2022.

But it's not just the antiphons of some liturgical books that speak of the Present Moment as the Christ Moment. So do many, if not most, of our treasure of Christmas Carols: "Hark (Listen), the Herald Angel Sing!" so that "O Come, All Ye Faithful" on this "Silent Night, Holy Night."

My brothers and sisters, in the Incarnation Christ comes to us as we have focused for all of Advent. Now it's our opportunity to go and encounter Him. Not gazing back on the past nor looking to the future but "Today!"

Merry Christmas! I look forward to seeing you and your family at Mass on Christmas and the next day, on Holy Family Sunday, December 26!

God Bless and Happy Advent!

*Father O'Connor*

### ANNOUNCING ST. GREGORY'S MONTHLY 50/50

**50/50  
RAFFLE**

**RAFFLE.** Are you feeling lucky as we look to the promise of a new year? The parish is beginning a monthly 50/50 Raffle for those who like the excitement of a game of chance! You will notice an extra envelope in your

packet each month marked for the 50/50. While it's not part of your weekly tithing, you can simply place \$5.00 in the envelope and throw it in the basket, or you may also return it directly to the Parish Office. Envelopes received after the last day of the month will be included in the next month's game. Extra 50/50 Raffle envelopes will be at the back of the church. Drawings will take place on the Wednesday, following the First Sunday of the Month for the preceding month. So, this January's winner will be picked on Wednesday, February 9. Hopefully you will join in a little bit of FUN and a little bit of FUNraising for our Parish Family.

**2021 ANNUAL CATHOLIC** continues at St. Gregory's. Tallies show that there have been 232 **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 \$15,500 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 12th amounted to \$1,442 for Immaculate Conception and \$5,559 for the parish. Thank you all for your generosity.



**ADVENT WREATH.** For those who have an Advent wreath at home for family prayer during this holy season, today you light all four candles.

**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 to the Parish Office.



**FR. JOHNSON** will be take his annual vacation and retreat beginning December 27th. He will be going home to India to visit with his family.

**A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS** will be presented TODAY 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.



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**RECONCILIATION MONDAY - December 20th -**



Day of Reconciliation  
the Sacrament.

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 8:00PM. Prepare for Christmas with

**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.



**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2021**

**RECONCILIATION MONDAY – PENANCE**

Monday, December 20th  
After 9:00AM 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 31<sup>st</sup>  
9:00AM & 5:00PM

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

**A TE DEUM NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS** will be



celebrated in the church at 5:00PM on Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>. 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 31<sup>st</sup>, 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.

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**DUCODECIMA NATALIS** - Come celebrate the "Twelve Days of Christmas" with a series of twelve Masses beginning Christmas and ending on January 6th (traditional Epiphany). Allow yourself to ponder not only the Mystery of Christmas but to receive the Greatest

The 12 Days  
of Christmas



Gift offered us, the Gift of the Holy Eucharist. Spend Christmas where you have a special place – at the Table of the Lord. Light hospitality will be served after Mass on January 6th. Invite a family member, friend, or neighbor.

**BOOK CLUB** - The selection for the next meeting that will take place on Monday, January 10th, at 7:00PM in the Rectory Basement, is *The Stationery Shop* by Marjan Kamali.

**HOLD THE DATE!** - The Annual Renaissance Luncheon will be held on Sunday, February 6, 2022. All adults are invited! Join the Renaissance Group at our annual luncheon at Villa D'Este following the 12:30PM Mass. The cost of \$48 per person includes a champagne punch toast, salad, pasta and choice of one entrée from a selection of five. A vegetable, soda, coffee or tea and dessert are also included. A cash bar will be available. Please RSVP to Pat at 516-354-4736 or Marion at 516-358-4102 by January 30th.

**ST. GREGORY'S SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION** - Anyone interested in helping with our Alumni Association please call Father 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](http://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](http://www.givecentral.org/login)** and enter your username and password to log in – any time, any place.

