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

Week of December 26, 2021
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH



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. 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?*



Church Etiquette: As we move further into the winter months, the men of the parish reminded that it has been centuries long tradition that they remove their hats upon entering church. Also kindly help the ushers to keep the church doors shut so the church will be warm for those worshipping at the next celebration. Thank You.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Week of December 26, 2021

SUNDAY

AA OPEN 7:00PM Convent Basement

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

ADORATION 9:30AM Church

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY 12:00PM Green Room

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

BOY SCOUTS 6:30PM Oak Room

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

AA STEP 7:00PM Convent Basement

AA CLOSED 8:30PM Convent Basement

SATURDAY

No events scheduled.

OPEN MASS INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY 2022. 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:



Sunday, January 16th – 8AM Mass
Saturday, January 29th – 9AM Mass

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Week of December 26, 2021

SUN. DEC. 26TH

8AM Timothy Jacques

9:15AM Members of the Purgatorial Society

11AM William Campbell, William & Florence D'Souza (Wedd. Anniv.)

12:30PM Stephanie Pontosky (Bday Rem.)

5:15PM All the People of the Parish

MON. DEC. 27TH

9AM Frank Russo (1st Anniv. Rem.)

TUES. DEC. 28TH

9AM Agatha Kobel

WED. DEC. 29TH

9AM Patrick Ferguson

THURS. DEC. 30TH

9AM Marion Zimmer

FRI. DEC. 31ST

9AM Breslin & Kelleher Families

SAT. JAN. 1ST

9AM David & Sheila O'Brien

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:



FOR THE SICK

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

FOR THE DECEASED

Mildred Lawson, Irene Moore



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

THE PASTOR'S DESK

12/26/2021

I love America! I think it's great. That's why I spent four years in the US Naval Reserves. There are so many blessings and opportunities here. And while I'm glad O'Connors and McKeivitts before me immigrated to New York, I understand that people came at a price and sacrificed some of the old when coming to the New World. One of those things that have been sacrificed is Christmas. You may respond "We just had Christmas!" "How have we sacrificed Christmas?" Well, I was thinking more of the Christmas Season.

Before the push for cultural secularization that began after WWII and reached high gear in the 1960's and 1970's when Catholic immigrants came to the US, they found a White Anglo Saxon Protestant culture that was not kind or accepting to them. It's not surprising ethnic ghettos began to take root. To become "American" was largely to become more like the status quo – the Protestants who lived here.

In Catholic Europe, the days leading up to Christmas were rather austere with penance and fasting, then the celebrations began on or just before Christmas Eve. But those celebrations would continue during Christmas week and beyond. We all remember the song, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, that lead us from December 25th to January 6th, the Epiphany. For us those are the true days of celebration as the Church recalls some of its greatest feasts.

It's not just about Christmas, recalling His birth for a day, but how we take the time to reflect on what His birth means for me in the present day. Today's Feast of the Holy Family is a prime example. We recalled His birth at Christmas but what does it mean for your household to be a holy family as was the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph?

Because Jesus was God's Son and not St. Joseph's, there were much larger ramifications. In God's mysterious plan, Mary is Mother of God. No holy day this year but it does not diminish her role in our lives. Precisely because we do not celebrate Christmas Season in the States, the US Bishops, after the Second Vatican Council, moved the Epiphany Celebration from January 6th, to the first Sunday of the new year. Their thoughts were simply better that we celebrate it on Sunday than not at all. You see, in Catholic Europe, schools are closed at least until January 6th and families take the time to visit with others or extended family. It's a time of family and friends, treats and toys. In fact, you may know already that in Spain and several other countries of similar roots, gifts are given out not at Christmas but on January 6th, since it is the Magi that traditionally bear the gifts and not Santa Claus.

Before the revised Church Calendar, Christmas season would last until February 2nd, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple - the 40th day after Christmas, today it ends with the Baptism of Jesus on the second Sunday of 2022. Whether it lasts for 14 days or 40, the challenge for us is to keep the celebrations alive. I always have my Christmas Parties during Christmas time: First, I get to continue my Christmas Celebrations. Second, I find people are less stressed even just a day or two after December 25th – ready to relax and enjoy. Maybe that is one of the Miracles of Christmas!

So, let Advent be Advent and Christmas be Christmas! Enjoy the richness of the entire Christmas Season. Keep your lights on and your house decorated. Invite people over or do special things. Even if the holiday music ends on the radio on the 26th, we celebrate Christmas until January 9th.

God Bless and Merry Christmas!

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 tithe, 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 **239 pledges made totaling \$83,370.** 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 \$13,000 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 - Due to the early deadline of the Bulletin this week, collections will be posted in next week's Bulletin.



THANK YOU. Father O'Connor and the entire staff express sincere thanks for the wonderful gifts you gave at Christmas. The many cards, candies, baked goods and wrapped gifts under the Christmas tree were greatly appreciated. God bless you!

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. We will miss a wonderful visit home with his family.

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.



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.



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.



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2021

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

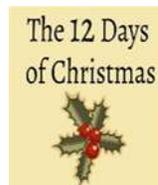
MASSES

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

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

CALENDARS for 2022 are available for parishioners. They can be found by the doors of the church and we ask you to take one for your household. It has all the parish information on it. We thank Thomas F. Dalton's Funeral Home for the beautiful Catholic calendar this year.

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 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.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

SYNOD SATURDAY: January 15th. In preparation for the General meeting on Saturday, January 15th, Father O'Connor will be meeting with members of the **Indian Community at 7:30PM on Saturday, January 8th** and with members of the **Filipino Community**



at 7:30PM on Monday, January 10th. Both meetings will be held in the church and last one hour. Please spread the word about these important meetings. If you have any questions, please call Fr. O'Connor at the Parish Office. Don't be left out! Remember the General Meeting of the entire Parish will be January 15th, Synod Saturday beginning with the 9:00AM Mass.

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 each graduating class from the Pioneer Class up to the Class of 2010.



BULLETIN ADVERTISERS. We are grateful to those merchants and businesses that support our weekly bulletin by placing an ad. We ask all parishioners to patronize these merchants and anyone is welcomed to take an advertisement by calling the bulletin company at (631) 249-4994.

THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS

*Our Weekly Church Bulletin is Made Possible By Their Continued Support!!
Please Patronize Our Generous Businesses & Let Them Know You Saw Their Ad!!*

SPECIAL NEEDS PARENTS GROUP - All parents/guardians with children/adults with special needs or IEP's are invited to join us to share and exchange ideas in an informal setting. The next meeting will take place on Thursday, December 9th at 10:00AM at Sacred Hear of Jesus Church, Bayside. For further information, please contact Georgette Lyons at: shreligiousdbayside@yahoo.com.

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.

