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

Week of December 5, 2021
SECOND 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



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!"



THE ALTAR BREADS AND WINE which will be used at the celebrations of the Eucharist throughout the week of December 5th, have been donated in loving memory of Robert P. Jacoby, requested by Robert & Mary Jacoby.



THE SANCTUARY LAMP AND ALTAR CANDLES burning throughout the week of December 5th, have been donated in loving memory of Robert P. Jacoby, requested by Robert & Mary Jacoby.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Week of December 5, 2021

SUNDAY

FAITH FORMATION PAGEANT PRACTICE

11:30AM

MASS FOR PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

12:30PM Church

AA OPEN 7:00PM Convent Basement

MONDAY

ARISE 4:00-5:30PM Gathering Space

CHRIST OF THE CAROLS 7:30PM Church

TUESDAY

ADORATION 9:30AM Church

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

Oak Room

BOY SCOUTS 6:30PM Oak Room

VIGIL MASS 7:30PM Church

ADULT CHOIR 8:30PM Church

WEDNESDAY

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CON-

CEPTION Mass at 9:00AM & 7:30PM Church

STROKE LIFE SUPPORT GROUP 1:30PM Gath-

ering Space

FOLK GROUP 7:15PM Rectory Basement

THURSDAY

QIGONG 6:30PM Oak Room

FRIDAY

AA STEP 7:00PM Convent Basement

RENAISSANCE GROUP'S CHRISTMAS GATH-

ERING 7:00PM Oak Room

AA CLOSED 8:30PM Convent Basement

SATURDAY

TOYS FOR TOTS 9:00AM Academy Parking Lot

SCRIPTURE SHARING 9:45AM Gathering Space

BEREAVEMENT GROUP 10:00AM Rectory Base-

ment

PENANCE 1:00PM Church

TREE LIGHTING & CAROLS 6:00PM Church

Lawn

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Week of December 5, 2021

SUN. DEC. 5TH

8AM

Margie Bausch & Garin Sheeley

9:15AM

Members of the Purgatorial Society

11AM

William Brand Jr. (Birth. Rem.),

Thomas Pinder Jr. (10th Anniv. Rem.)

12:30PM

Schmalz & DeHaven Families

5:15PM

All the People of the Parish

MON. DEC. 6TH

9AM

Leocadio Feliciano

TUES. DEC. 7TH

9AM

Johnny & Chinnamma

(Thanksgiving Mass)

7:30PM

WED. DEC. 8TH

9AM

Deceased members of the Joyce,

Quigley, Murphy & Fuisting Families

7:30PM

Robert P. Jacoby (Anniv. Rem.)

THURS. DEC. 9TH

9AM

Pannini Family

FRI. DEC. 10TH

9AM

Robert Melville

SAT. DEC. 11TH

9AM

Mary Lawrice Tully, Edward Schaf,

Danilo Mallago, Violetta Mollasgo,

Nora Urbono

5PM

Joseph Horne (Birth. Rem.)

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE PASTOR'S DESK

12/5/2021

New Year – New Bishop – New Fervor

Last weekend, the Church began a new Liturgical Year. The Season of Advent is an opportunity to prepare and welcome the Living Christ into our world, our homes, our lives, our very hearts. Mindful of the Birth of Jesus over two millennia ago, we can confidently look to the future and expect him to be true to His promise. I don't know about you but that's what keeps me going. That's the reason I keep waking up in the morning. Each day is an encounter with Him.

To help us all embrace that reality in our lives, Our Holy Father, Pope Francis gave us a new shepherd this week in Bishop Robert Brennan. We have already started to pray for him by name in the Eucharistic Prayer of each Mass. In your kindness, please keep him in your prayers even outside of Mass.

Along with the New Church Year and New Bishop, I would like to talk about a new fervor the embers of which still need to be fanned into great flames giving light and warmth to all the Church, indeed all the world. Before Thanksgiving I wrote to you about the Synod that will take place in Rome that will begin in Belterose, Floral Park and Queens Village. To be more precise it will begin in parishes and communities all over the world.

First of all, I need you to mark and reserve, Saturday, January 15th, as Synod Saturday here at St. Gregory's! Beginning with the 9AM Mass and followed by some pretty serious discussions in the Oak Room (I call them serious because they are about our futures; futures of our parish and the Catholic Church around the world), the morning will conclude with Benediction and a light lunch back in the Oak Room.

As I mentioned last month, I don't mind assisting Pope Francis with the Synod in Rome, but I am more concerned with our shared future at St. Gregory's. If that's a bit parochial I don't care. We are a parish after all! Before the plenary meeting on Saturday, January 15th, I will be meeting with different communities in the parish. Besides, the different parish organizations and groups, I would like to meet especially with the Filipinos and the Indians who worship at St. Gregory's. Historically speaking, these most recent arrivals to the parish might have a unique perspective that I look forward to listen about.

I realize this is sadly called a "crazy" or "hectic" time of the year. Maybe we should think a moment or two as to why it is so "crazy" or "hectic?" I'm pretty sure Jesus is not the cause! We have some unique opportunities here at the parish. While recalling His Birth in time, please don't forget that He is still with us. Closer than you might think.

God Bless and Happy Advent!

Father O'Connor

COLLECTIONS - The collection for the week of November 21st amounted to \$738 for Human Development and \$7,980 for the parish.

The collection for the week of November 28th amounted to \$1,924 for Thanksgiving and \$4,712 for the parish.

The total, as of this date, for the Annual October Campaign collection is \$33,880.

Thank you all for your generous support.



2021 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL continues

at St. Gregory's. Tallies show that there have been 232 pledges made totaling **\$79,624**. 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!"





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

THE GIVING TREE - 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. As in recent years, there is an emphasis on Gift Cards and you can purchase them through St. Gregory the Great Academy's SCRIPS fundraiser, no later than December 6th. When choosing your gift cards, please pick stores or restaurants that are in the area such as Target, CVS, Dunkin Donuts, etc.



If you choose to donate a gift, please do not wrap your gift but place it in a bag with the tag from the Giving Tree attached. If you have items in NEW condition, you may add them but please be sure to label them with a description of the item, size and gender if appropriate. Please bring your gifts no later than **December 12th**.

Thank you - your generosity is appreciated!

CHRIST OF THE CAROLS - This 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.

ADULT CHOIR has returned to singing at the 11:00AM Sunday Mass. Rehearsals are held on Tuesday evenings 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 for additional information, or just come to the next rehearsal on Tuesday, December 7th, at 8:30PM in the Church.

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION is this **Wednesday, December 8th** - 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 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 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.

LECTOR WORKBOOKS may be picked up in the sacristy or at the Parish Office. Please make sure your name is crossed off the list when you get your workbook. The new Church Year has begun. Thank you for your ministry.



SECOND 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 Academy. All orders are due **TOMORROW**, 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 Academy 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 Academy 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 Academy Parking Lot, under the tent. If the gift is wrapped, please indicate if it is for a boy or girl 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.



SPECIAL NEEDS PARENTS GROUP - Parents/guardians with children/adults with all special needs or IEP's are invited to join the group to share and exchange ideas. The next meeting will take place on Thursday, December 9th at 10:00AM at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, in Bayside. For further information, please contact Georgette 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.