

The Gregorian



December 24, 2017
Fourth Sunday of Advent



St. Gregory the Great

Mission Statement

St. Gregory the Great is a Catholic Church made up of people of many different ages, talents, and cultural backgrounds. We are an urban faith community with a small town feel of welcome and hospitality. Motivated by our baptismal calling, we accept our duty to embody the presence of Jesus Christ in the world and to take up the mission he entrusted to us by our word and example. We glorify God through support and service of our time, talent, and treasure to our church and to the larger community in which we live.

Dear Parishioners,



I want to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas this year, I am aware of and grateful for the many ways in which my life has been gifted by you, the parishioners of St. Gregory the Great Church.

In a few days we shall celebrate the ever awesome feast of Christmas with its heart-warming liturgies, its familiar carols, its exchange of gifts and its tidings of peace and good will to all.

Despite our commercial way of celebrating Christmas, it is comforting to know that no power on earth can or ever will darken the spiritual significance of the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem. However, the festivities that surround this celebration must not divert us from the challenge his coming presents to us. The renewal of Christ's birth should make us recall the admonition to "find love where there is hate, faith where there is doubt, hope where there is despair, light where there is darkness, joy where there is sadness and peace where there is strife."

God's presence among us is really what Christmas is all about. Truly, then, it is a feast of God's love for us. As the star that shone over Bethlehem pointed the way to the Wise Men that they might come and adore God's little child, so the Eucharist is our star which points out to us the source of real power and love.

All of us must heed the invitation which the Church addresses to us so frequently in the Liturgy: "O come, let us adore him." With Mary and Joseph, let us reverently and lovingly extend ourselves this Christmas to become one with Christ in his glorious birth.

In the midst of your gift giving this year, I ask that you be mindful of St. Gregory the Great Church this Christmas season by your financial support of our Church. We rely on the money you give at this time of the year to meet our annual operating expenses. Please prayerfully consider what you can share with our Church this Christmas.

In the peace and joy of Christ, Fr. Paul

PLANNED GIVING

As we approach this holiday season, let us remember the joy in giving and in sharing the blessings we have received. God has cloaked us in His bountiful love, and we can in turn offer our fellow parishioners an extension of this love. By considering a Planned Gift to St. Gregory the Great Church, we can ensure that our parish will continue to serve and grow in its mission. Please contact Elin Schriver, as you prayerfully consider making a gift to St. Gregory the Great Church. She is happy to discuss with you some of the financial benefits of making a Planned Gift, such as an income stream for you during your lifetime and tax benefits for your family after you are gone. There are significant tax benefits you might also consider for your year-end giving. If you make a gift directly from your IRA before Dec. 31st or if you make a gift of appreciated stock held longer than 12 months, you can realize important tax savings.

Elin Schriver eschriver@archchicago.org 312.534.5396 - Planned Giving Relationship Manager

THANKS TO THE FILIPINOS OF ST. GREGORY

I want to offer special thanks to the Filipinos of St. Gregory for a donation to St. Gregory of \$5,000 that they gave to me on Saturday, Dec. 16 at their celebration of Simbang Gabi, which is 9 day novena to help prepare them for the celebration of Christmas. Every year our Filipinos of St. Gregory do fund raising to support the mission and the ministries of our wonderful parish. Over the years, they have shared their customs and traditions in a way that has enriched our parish. I am most grateful for their generosity, support and leadership all through the year. – Fr. Paul

NORTHSIDE CATHOLIC ACADEMY (NCA)

Christmas Spirit at NCA

The Advent season is a special time at NCA. It's a time of joy, peace, love, hope and celebration! The Christmas spirit was evident throughout our Primary School and Middle School Campuses. Classrooms were filled with beautiful Advent projects created by our students, and the doors and hallways were decorated with Christmas cheer. Students also came together on the last day of school for a special All School Christmas Mass at St. Gertrude Church, followed by classroom celebrations.

Holidays at NCA, however, wouldn't be complete without sharing the Christmas spirit with our families and community through song. NCA students in grades K-4 presented Peace – An Evening of Christmas Joy at St. Gertrude Church. It was a wonderful evening of music and songs that shared the incredible talents of our students. From songs with recorders and bells, to sign language and Spanish, it was a celebration for the senses! NCA preschoolers also shared in the festivities with their annual Christmas Music Show and cookie share organized by our Early Learning teachers. Thank you to all of our students for singing so beautifully and bringing such happiness to our community. A special thank you to NCA Music Director Dr. Michelle Brooks for another outstanding Christmas Concert, and accompanist Mrs. Mary Clare Barker.

On behalf of everyone at NCA, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May you be blessed with the joys of the season!

SAVE THE DATE

Please join us on Sunday, January 7, 2018 for our 1st Annual Chicago Blackhawks "Feed Your Face Off" Viewing Party!"

Date: Sunday, January 7, 2017

Time: 12-4 PM

Location: St. Gregory High School Cafeteria: 1677 W. Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago, IL 60660

Viewing Party: Chicago Blackhawks vs Edmonton Oilers (WGN)

Food, Drink, Kids Games, Calcutta, Pull Tabs

Food catered by Ranalli's

Auction Items:

Autographed Patrick Kane jersey, Autographed Jonathan Toews photo / puck, Autographed Patrick Kane photo / puck, Autographed Paul Konerko jersey, Autographed Kris Bryant World Series jersey, and 15 other sports memorabilia auction items



FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Jan. 10, 2018—Regular Meeting—Menu: Hot Dogs/Baked Beans—Cost \$6

Feb. 14, 2018—Regular Meeting—Menu: Tuna Casserole and Macaroni & Cheese—Cost \$6

DON'T FORGET! BRING YOUR FAVORITE BIRTHDAY DESSERT TO SHARE DURING THE MONTH OF YOUR BIRTHDAY.



BINGO

Bingo at St. Gregory is "Smoke Free"

**TUESDAY NIGHT BINGO
AT ST. GREGORY**

Games begin at 7:00 PM in the
Gym Basement—Social Hall (1609 West Gregory St.)

\$2,250 in prizes (includes 2— \$500 games)

In case of bad weather, please call the Parish Center at 773-561-3546, after 2:00p.m. for possible cancellation.

**Mass Intentions
for the week**

SUNDAY, December 24 *Christmas Eve*

8:30am—+Marilyn Hohmeier
10:30am—+John F. Libby
+Justina Wachdorf

MONDAY, December 25 *Christmas Day*

8:30am—+Bill & Mary Thiry
10:30am—+Marcel DeGraff
+Joan Lycknell

TUESDAY, December 26

8:30am—Parishioners

WEDNESDAY, December 27

8:30am—+Joan Lycknell

THURSDAY, December 28

8:30am—Memorial Fund

FRIDAY, December 29

8:30am—+America Ruiz

SATURDAY, December 30

8:30am—Parishioners
4:30pm—+Edward Duffy

SUNDAY, December 31

8:30am—Parishioners
10:30am—Parishioners

Prayer List

*Please pray for the sick and all those
who have asked for our prayers.*

Eloise Coughlin
Colleen Dwyer
Ida Scott
James Butler
Peter Saldanha
Virginia Rodriguez
Marylyn Ahlfeld
Mark Dichosa
Bill Barker
Michael Schlee
Horace Rutledge
Edy Marroquin
Stanley Gnoske
Matthew Nilson
Silvia Muntaner
Maritza Muntaner

Tom Ahlfeld
Mary Bredemeier
Cassandra Christina Morales
Jesus Manuel Rosario
Eileen Casey
Ida Christensen
Marilyn Gillis Lading
Rosa Maria Santos
Tania Rojas
Rodolfo Nabong
Charlie Bales
Alice Weinstein
Cathy Hall
Martha Ratcliff
Mary Ardizzone
Maritza Muntaner
Arlene Blake

Our Armed Forces

*Please keep in your prayers
all who are in the armed forces.*

Anthony DelRosario

Memorial Fund

In Loving Memory:

+Beret Swanson
Marlene & Gerry Malone
+Adrienne Fischer
Carole Grant & Chris Grant
+Justina Wachdorf
Carole Grant & Chris Grant

Special Intentions:

Martha Schaffrath
Frieda Mkrtschjan
God's healing blessings
Debra Melbye

Weekly Calendar

December 24 (Sunday) *Christmas Eve*

4:30pm—Mass—Church
5:00pm—Charismatic Prayer group—Fr. Baseheart rm.
9:30pm—Midnight Mass—Church

December 25 (Monday) *Christmas Day*

8:30am—Mass—Church
10:30am—Mass—Church

December 26 (Tuesday)

PARISH CENTER CLOSED—NO BINGO

December 27 (Wednesday)

6:30pm—Novena—Church

December 29 (Friday)

6:45pm—Women's scripture study—Parish Center

Readings for the Week

Monday: **Vigil:** Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27-29;
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
During the Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13;
Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12;
Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6;
Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Tuesday:
Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59;
Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

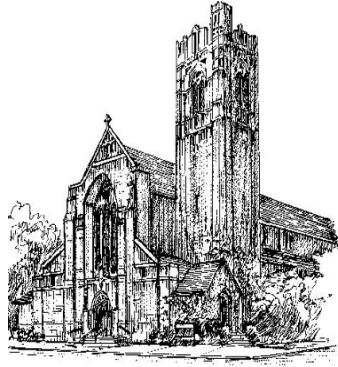
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:
1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or
Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

Liturgical Ministries (December 30/December 31)

	Saturday—4:30pm	Sunday—8:30am	Sunday—10:30am
Presider	Fr. Brian Fischer	Fr. Brian Fischer	Fr. Paul Wachdorf
Lectors/Commentators	Chris Garrity Bob Kustus	Catherine Rondinelli Kristine Siapno	Carol Hanson Barb Lea
Eucharistic Ministers	Mary Corbett Marty Sullivan Nancy Sullivan	Winnie Bowman Michael Janssens Lauren Siapno Riza Siapno	MariaLuisa Clemente Catherine Gruber Isabel Martinez Lenore Thomalla
Altar Servers	John Alznauer Meg Alznauer MC-Dan Creed	Isaiah Medina Iggy Decastro MC-Joe Siapno	Carmen Delgado Josie Delgado TBA MC-Eunice Daniels

Sunday and Holy Day Collection Totals For Fiscal Year July 1—June 30 November		Envelopes	Cash/Loose	Electronic Giving	Total
	November 5	\$1,684	\$1,202		\$2,886
	November 12	\$1,051	\$ 661	\$12,562	\$14,274
	November 19	\$1,435	\$1,670		\$3,105
	November 26	\$1,520	\$1,138		\$2,658
	Holy Days	\$ 826	\$ 20		\$ 846
	Total	\$6,516	\$4,691	\$12,562	\$23,769
Over/(Under) Monthly Budget—Year-to-Date				(\$4,821)	
Year-to-Date Collected as of November 30, 2017				\$124,054	
Planned Annual Budget for Sunday & Holy Day Collections				\$315,000	
YTD Collected as a percentage of Planned Annual Budget				39%	



ST. GREGORY THE GREAT PARISH AND SCHOOL INFORMATION AND SERVICES

Parish Center

5545 N. Paulina St., Chicago, IL 60640
 773-561-3546
 773-728-3827 (fax)—www.stgregory.net

Hours:

Monday-Thursday- 9:00am - 7:00 pm
 Friday- 9:00am - 4:30pm
 Saturday-9:00am - 4:30pm
 Sunday-9:00am - Noon

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Paul Wachdorf, *Pastor*
 Rev. Brian Fischer, *Associate Pastor*
 Sr. Barbara Quinn, *Pastoral Associate*
 Sr. Regina De Vitto, *Pastoral Associate*
 Mr. John Miaso, *Business Manager*
 Mr. Patrick Godon, *Director of Music & Liturgy*
 Ms. Bernadette Daniels, *Administrative Asst.*
 Mr. Dan Creed, *Sacristan*

Mr. Joseph Malham, *Artist-in-Residence*
 Quest Theatre Ensemble, *Artists-in-Residence*
www.questensemble.org (Reservations: 312-458-0895)
 International Chamber Artists, *Artists-in-Residence*
www.ICAmusic.org

Schools

Northside Catholic Academy (NCA) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
 Admissions Office: 773-743-6277

St. Gregory Credit Union

1609 W. Gregory St., Chicago, IL 60640
 773-561-5493
 Sunday 9:30am-12:00pm & Wednesday 7:00pm-9:00pm

St. Gregory the Great APP

Can be found at St. Gregory the Great, Chicago IL
 iPhone Users-Text : great1 to 555888
 Android Users-Text : great2 to 555888

Masses

Sunday: Saturday Evening—4:30pm, Sunday—8:30am and 10:30am.

Weekdays: Monday - Saturday—8:30am

Holy Days of Obligation: Please check the Sunday bulletin for Holy Day Schedules.

Sacraments

Baptisms: First Sunday of the Month—1:00pm (except during Lent)

Weddings: Arrange with a pastoral staff member at least six months in advance. Participation in marriage preparation is essential.

Reconciliation

Saturday— 3:30pm - 4:15pm

Services

Prayer Requests: If you or a family member or relative is ill and would like to be included on the list of prayer requests, please call the Parish Center.

Mass Intentions: You may request a Mass intention for someone who is living or deceased or special occasions such as birthdays, special anniversary, get well wishes. Please call or stop by the Parish Center.

Devotions

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 1st Friday of each month, 9:00am-7:00pm, except when funerals are scheduled.
Novena To Our Lady of Perpetual Help: Wednesdays 6:30pm

Taizé Prayer Service

The Taizé Prayer Service will focus on seasonal icons. Taizé Prayer Service will be held in Church on Sundays at 4:00pm. Please check the bulletin or our website at www.stgregory.net (under the "About Us" tab) for the next scheduled prayer service.