



# The Messenger

## DECEMBER 2018

### Pastoral Leadership

- Msgr. Douglas Grams  
Rector/Pastor
- Fr. Garrett Ahlers  
Parochial Vicar
- Fr. Cornelius Ezeiloaku  
Parochial Vicar
- Fr. Jerry Meidl  
Senior Associate Pastor
- Dcn. Rick Christiansen  
Permanent Deacon

### St. Gregory the Great Pastoral Admin. Council

- Mark Schuelke, President
- Larry Mages, Vice President
- Cheri LeBrun, Secretary;  
HCAFC Rep
- Carol Hoffmann, HCAFC Rep.
- Rick Scheurer
- Carl Oswald, Trustee
- Pam Morson, Trustee
- Msgr. Douglas Grams, Ex Officio
- Sheri Liebl, Ex Officio

### St. Gregory Cemetery Board

- Paul Guggisberg
- Bruce Platz
- Ben Stadick
- Mark Hoffmann
- Karl Lindquist

### Employees

- Virginia Herring, Custodian
- Paulette Messerli, Custodian
- LaVon Fischer, Sub. Custodian
- Karl Lindquist, Grounds
- Sheri Liebl, Secretary
- Josh Fischer, Snow Removal

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### **St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church**

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440 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lafayette, MN 56054  
Phone: 507-228-8298**

**Email:**  
stgregory@holycrossafc.org

### **Website:**

[www.holycrossafc.org/church-of-st-gregory-the-great.html](http://www.holycrossafc.org/church-of-st-gregory-the-great.html)



## *Advent - Preparing our hearts....*

The weeks leading up to Christmas are filled with holiday songs, seasonal sales, decorations, lights, and sometimes Advent wreaths and candles. Why? What is it that we're celebrating? What is Advent?

### **About Advent**

Each year the Catholic Church gives us an incredible opportunity for a powerful encounter with Jesus. In her genius, the Church invites us during Advent to take a step back and look at who we are, what we are doing, and where Jesus fits into our lives.

Jesus came into this world at that first Christmas for you, to bring meaning and deep satisfaction into your life, to fill you with lasting joy, and ultimately to bring you to eternal happiness with him in heaven. That's what we celebrate at Christmas. Are you ready?

### **The Definition of Advent**

The word "advent" (the arrival of an important person or thing) is derived from the Latin word "adventus," which means "coming." For Catholics, Advent is the four-week season leading up to Christmas. During Advent we anticipate the coming of Jesus. It's a time full of reflection, excitement, and hope.

### **When Does Advent Begin?**

Advent officially begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on December 24. It marks the beginning of the Catholic Church's calendar year. Advent starts on December 2, 2018.

We have a shorter Advent this year (only twenty-two days long!). Christmas Eve is the Fourth Monday of Advent, with Christmas falling on Tuesday. 4 weeks isn't long, but that still leaves plenty of time to spend some quiet time preparing for Jesus' coming. Common Advent traditions include an Advent calendar, the Advent wreath, and special Advent prayers.

### **What Is an Advent Wreath?**

During Advent and Christmas, festively decorated evergreen wreaths hang in windows and on doors everywhere. In many homes and churches, it's also common to see special wreaths lying on tables or ledges, adorned with four candles (usually three purple and one pink). This familiar symbol of the season is the Advent wreath.

Continued on page 2...



The shape of the wreath, with no beginning or end, reflects the complete and endless love that Jesus has for us. During the Advent season, we eagerly anticipate his coming and the promise of eternal life in heaven with him. Traditionally, the Advent wreath is a circle of evergreen branches. Both the evergreen branches and the circular shape symbolize the passing of time and eternal life.

**The Meaning of Advent Candles**

As a Christian tradition, the wreath holds the four Advent candles. The candles represent Jesus coming as the light in darkness. One candle is lit each Sunday until all four candles are lit, and sometimes a fifth candle is lit on Christmas. As Christmas draws nearer, each candle brings a little more light into the darkness. Each of the candles represents an aspect of preparation during the season of Advent:

1. The Candle of Hope (Color: Purple) Purple is the primary color associated with Advent. Within the Catholic Church it symbolizes penance, preparation, and sacrifice. During the first week of Advent, we look forward to Jesus’ coming with hope.
2. The Candle of Peace (Color: Purple) During this second week of Advent, we reflect on our lives and work on becoming better-versions-of-ourselves in preparation for Jesus’ coming.
3. The Candle of Joy (Color: Pink) This third candle is pink, symbolizing anticipation and rejoicing. During the third week of Advent, we are filled with joy for the near arrival of Jesus on Christmas day.
4. The Candle of Love (Color: Purple) During this final week of Advent we rejoice in the endless love that God has for us, which is made apparent in the birth of his Son.

**How to Prepare for Christmas**

Think about it this way. We prepare for everything we consider important in life. You wouldn’t show up to play in a football game and expect to win if you had not been training. You wouldn’t show up unprepared to give a big presentation at work and expect to get the project. We don’t expect to excel in exams if we have not studied. Consider the preparation that goes into hosting a barbecue, a dinner party, or a wedding.

Now I don’t mean the typical Christmas preparations. Buying and wrapping presents. Baking cookies. Planning parties. Putting up the lights, the tree, and other decorations. I mean preparing you. When was the last time you prepared your heart for Jesus’ coming at Christmas?

We prepare for everything we consider important in life. In every case preparation makes a wonderful experience possible. When was the last time you prepared your heart for Christmas?

Source: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever/about-advent>

# December Birthday Wishes....



- |                    |                |                   |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1 Bryant Johnson   | 2 Kay Hoffmann | 4 Paige Fitterer  |
| 4 Kendra VanDeest  | 5 David Wacker | 6 Logan VanDeest  |
| 9 Virginia Herring | 10 Betty Maidl | 12 Howard Altmann |
| 15 Rob Wear        | 16 Nick Gjerde | 16 Scott Portner  |
| 17 Adam Oswald     | 24 Chris Bruns | 24 Ted Portner    |
| 30 Pam Morson      |                |                   |

If any dates are incorrect, or you were unintentionally missed, please notify the office at 507-228-8298.

## In our thoughts and prayers...

***Please keep these individuals and their families in your thoughts and prayers...***

- Diane Schuelke, who continues to battle health issues
- Bill Fahey, (brother of Deb Guggisberg), who is recuperating from a motorcycle accident

And for all those who suffer....we pray to the Lord.



**Please pray for the youth of St. Gregory as they prepare for the sacraments or in the journey of life...**

- † Second graders preparing for First Reconciliation and First Communion are: Anna Davis, Megan Hacker, Tyler Oswald, Connor Portner, Arianna Uher and Mary Kate Webster.
- † Confirmation candidates are Josh and Haylee Liebl.
- † 2019 Graduates from St. Gregory include Cassidy Platz, Jennifer Wear and Jay Webster.

**This year's Diocesan Ministries Appeal (DMA)** project for St. Gregory's will be repair of the drainage system above the Social Hall. Excessive rains this past summer caused damage to the interior structure. Plans are to reroute drainage to prevent a repeat event as well as repair the existing damage to the ceiling. As in the past, a portion of the DMA collection will come back to the parish and households will be able to donate directly to the project in addition to a donation to the DMA campaign towards diocesan works.

**Donations for Christmas Flowers** are now being accepted. If you wish, you may also donate in honor of or in memory of a loved one, friend, neighbor, etc. Donation envelopes are available at the back of church

**Year-end donations** - There is still time to contribute monetarily for 2018, but please remember, per IRS regulations all contributions, including mailed contributions, must be dated, received and/or POSTMARKED by December 31st to qualify as 2018 tax-deduction. Checks delivered in person or mailed and dated or postmarked AFTER December 31st will be processed as tax-deductible in 2019. If you would like to know your contribution balance before your yearend contribution or have questions, please contact the office at 507-228-8298.

**Lend us your singing talents** for the Christmas Eve Mass...it is not too late to join the choir. Practices are planned for Wednesdays, December 5, 12 and 19 at 6:15 P.M.

**Share your talent** at the annual Christmas Eve Mass Music Prelude...if you would like to share a talent, contact Cheri LeBrun at 507-766-0282.



## Save the dates...Upcoming Church and Community Events

**Saturday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>** – St. Gregory's Annual Cookie Walk. Join us from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. and bring a container to collect all the goodies. A BBQ Sandwich lunch will be available along with a Nativity Raffle.

**Sunday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>** – Anointing of the Sick will be offered following the 10:30 AM Mass

**Sunday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>** - Donut Sunday following Mass. CCW hostesses will be Katie Scheurer and Cathy Peterson

**Sunday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>** – Lafayette Area Community Sing A Long will take place at 7 P.M. at the Bernadotte Lutheran Church. This time-honored tradition is a great way to meet new friends and reminisce with old friends

**Tuesday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>** - Santa is coming to the Lafayette Community Center from 4:30 - 6:30 P.M. Come get your photo taken with Santa and enjoy some holiday treats! This annual community event is sponsored by Citizens Bank of Lafayette.

**Saturday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Join us for a 5 PM Mass and stay after for Mass to assist with preparing the Church for Christmas. A light meal will be served for all that stay to assist in this decorating.

**Sunday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Please NOTE...there will be NO 10:30 AM Mass this Sunday due to Mass being offered on Sat., Dec. 22



You are invited....

# Christmas Eve Mass

at St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church

Monday, December 24


4:30 P.M. Music Prelude

5:00 P.M. Mass

Join us for the time honored  
and beautiful Mass.

*Activity Calendar for St. Gregory the  
Great Catholic Church in Lafayette, MN*

*December 2018*

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>2</b> 10:30 a.m. Mass  <hr/> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent	<b>3</b> No School–NUPS & NUACS	<b>4</b> 6:30 PM -New Mass Setting Learning Session at St. George Church	<b>5</b> 7:30 a.m. Confessions* 8 a.m. – Mass*  6:15 p.m. Choir Practice 7 p.m. Faith Form. –NU	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Immaculate Conception</b> (Holy Day of Obligation – check bulletin for HCAFC Mass Sch.)  <b>COOKIE WALK</b> <b>9 a.m. – 1 p.m.</b>
<b>9</b> 10:30 a.m. Mass Donut Sunday following Mass Anointing of the Sick following Mass	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7:30 a.m. Confessions* 8 a.m. – Mass*  6:15 p.m. Choir Practice 7 p.m. Faith Form. –NU	<b>13</b> 7 PM - HCAFC Joint Admin Council Mtg – Pastoral Center	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 10:30 a.m. Mass  <hr/> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7:30 a.m. Confessions* 8 a.m. – Mass*  6:15 p.m. Choir Practice 7 p.m. Faith Form. –NU	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  5:00 p.m. Mass  Church Decorating following Mass
<b>23</b> NO MASS at St. Gregory's  <hr/> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent	<b>24</b> No School–NUPS & NUACS  4:30 p.m. Music Prelude 5:00 p.m. Mass	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  No Faith Form. –NU	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 10:30 a.m. Mass  <hr/> Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	<b>31</b> No School–NUPS & NUACS  5:30 p.m. Mass	 <p><b>SAVE THE DATE...</b>  <b>Annual Parish Potluck and Meeting</b>  <b>Sunday, January 27, 2019</b></p>			<p>To view the entire Holy Cross AFC  calendar, go to  <a href="http://www.holycrossafc.org/afc-calendar.html">http://www.holycrossafc.org/afc-  calendar.html</a>  *All activities/Masses are subject to change</p>	