

ST. GREGORY THE GREAT UPDATE

JANUARY 10, 2021

We would like to wish each of you and your family a Happy New Year! May this be a New Year filled with faith, love and good health.

EFFECTIVE THIS WEEKEND: We will no longer be using the “FOR THE NEEDY” box for your *budget contributions*. We will be using the collection basket with the long handle as done previously. You may still use the “FOR THE NEEDY” box for contributions for the poor and needy.

Due to the constant concerns about COVID-19, we have decided to curtail morning Mass until further notice. This decision is being made both to a shortage in personnel and our need to clean the church. There are many churches that still have not started Mass and do not plan to until Ash Wednesday (February 17). Because we are not having weekday Masses, for the time being, we will accept 2 names (for Mass) on Saturday and Sunday Masses. Any Masses already booked on a Monday or Wednesday will be said at a weekend Mass.

We are now limited to 125 people per Mass. The Saturday Mass and the 8AM Mass are usually not as crowded as the 10:30. Please keep in mind, once our count reached 125, you will not be let in the Church.

Please observe the regulations for attending Mass. You must wear a face mask, at all times in the Church and attached buildings, this include the Gathering Space. If for some reason, any reason, you are not feeling well, please refrain from attending Mass.

Protocol for attending any and all Masses:

- a. Must wear a mask
- b. Must sanitize hands
- c. If you have any trace of illness, please stay home
- d. No congregating before, during or after Mass
- e. Practice social distancing

As we figured during the epidemic, our revenue has fallen. We are still responsible for many bills (heat, electric, insurance), Diocesan taxes and salaries. We thank those who have continued with their ongoing support, and ask all families to try to catch up with their giving if possible.

Because of the restrictions adopted by the hospitals, we are no longer able to visit patients. We are only able to go in for an emergency and administer the Sacrament of the Sick.

REMINDERS!!!

As ALWAYS if you are feeling ill in any way, cough, sneezing, or temperature, please do not come to church.

Please remember to wear your mask and to leave the Church immediately after Communion. Please do not socialize before or after Mass.

The Church is open daily Monday – Thursday 8am-2pm. Office hours are Monday –Friday 9-4. There is also a safe and secure drop off box (brown) located on the outside of the office. You may use that to drop off any notes or your budget if you wish.

Our Masses are Saturday 4 pm and Sunday at 8 am and 10:30 am. Masks must be worn during Mass. Communion will be at the end of Mass. **After you receive Communion, you should immediately exit the church.** Live streaming of Mass is on Sunday at 10:30 through our website at www.stgregorychurchri.com

In closing, we pray that everyone keeps safe, listens to the medical community, continues to pray, and is kind and loving to one another.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Alfred Ricci

PRAYER DURING A PANDEMIC

Loving God, Holy One,

Your desire is for our wholeness and well-being.

We hold in tenderness and prayer the collective suffering of our world at this time.

We grieve precious lives lost and vulnerable lives threatened. We ache for ourselves and our neighbors, standing before an uncertain future.

We pray: may love, not fear, go viral.

Inspire our leaders to discern and choose wisely, aligned with the
common good.

Help us to practice social distancing and reveal to us new and
creative ways to come together in spirit and in solidarity.

Call us to profound trust in your faithful presence, You, the God
who does not abandon,

You, the Holy One, breathing within us, breathing among us,
breathing around us in our beautiful yet wounded world.