



# ST. GREGORY THE GREAT CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Founded in 1862*

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 13, 2020

## THE "O" ANTIPHONS

The O Antiphons refer to the seven antiphons that are recited (or chanted) preceding the Magnificat during Vespers of the Liturgy of the Hours. They cover the special period of Advent preparation known as the Octave before Christmas, Dec. 17-23, with Dec. 24 being Christmas Eve and Vespers for that evening being for the Christmas Vigil.

The exact origin of the O Antiphons is not known. Boethius (c. 480-524) made a slight reference to them, thereby suggesting their presence at that time. At the Benedictine abbey of Fleury (now Saint-Benoit-sur-Loire), these antiphons were recited by the abbot and other abbey leaders in descending rank, and then a gift was given to each member of the community. By the eighth century, they are in use in the liturgical celebrations in Rome. The usage of the O Antiphons was so prevalent in monasteries that the phrases, Keep your O and The Great O Antiphons were common parlance. One may thereby conclude that in some fashion the O Antiphons have been part of our liturgical tradition since the very early Church.

The importance of O Antiphons is twofold: Each one highlights a title for the Messiah: *O Sapientia* (O Wisdom), *O Adonai* (O Lord), *O Radix Jesse* (O Root of Jesse), *O Clavis David* (O Key of David), *O Oriens* (O Rising Sun), *O Rex Gentium* (O King of the Nations), and *O Emmanuel*. Also, each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah.

According to Professor Robert Greenberg of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, the Benedictine monks arranged these antiphons with a definite purpose. If one starts with the last title and takes the first letter of each one,

Emmanuel  
Rex  
Oriens  
Clavis  
Radix  
Adonai  
Sapientia



the Latin words *ero cras* are formed, meaning, ***Tomorrow, I will come***. Therefore, the Lord Jesus, whose coming we have prepared for in Advent and whom we have addressed in these seven Messianic titles, now speaks to us, Tomorrow, I will come. So the O Antiphons not only bring intensity to our Advent preparation, but bring it to a joyful conclusion.

Fr. William Saunders  
catholiceducation.org

During this Advent Season, Father Quentin invites everyone to pray vespers (evening prayers) with him. From December 17th through December 23rd join Father each evening at 7:00pm in the church as we reflect on these promises and titles of our Savior.

## PARISH NEWS

### Advent Penance Services

December 13th - 3:00 pm at St. Gregory's in Marysville

December 20th - 3:00 pm at Sts. Peter and Paul in Seneca

### Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve - 5:00 pm & 7:00 pm - St. Gregory's

Christmas Day - 8:45 am - St. Malachy's  
10:30 am - St. Gregory's

### Poinsettias for Christmas

If you would like to have a poinsettia in your loved one's name to decorate the church this Christmas, please fill out the information on the back of your Christmas Flower Offering envelope or contact the Parish Office. The final date to order a flower is **Monday, December 21st**. The suggested donation is \$25 per plant.

### One Faith, One Family, One Future Campaign

I would like to thank all who have participated in the One Faith, One Family, One Future in Christ Capital Campaign for our Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas. It is amazing that with less than 15% of the parish participating in the campaign we have reached 50% of our goal. The people that have given to it have been extremely generous. We are in the final group of the campaign. The pledging part of the campaign is coming to an end very soon. For any who have not yet responded to the Capital Campaign please take the time to respond. Even if you are not able to financially give to the campaign a response would be helpful to increase our participation numbers. If you visit <http://faithfamilyfuture.archkck.org/pledge/>, you are able to make your gift online, or you may also mail in the commitment card you received. Regardless of your decision, we would like to hear back from you so we can conclude our portion of the campaign. Thank You!

~Father Quentin

## MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

**Tuesday, Dec. 15**

8:15am

† Shari Ann Hagedorn

**Wednesday, Dec. 16**

12:05pm

† Gerald Huddleston

**Thursday, Dec. 17**

12:05pm

† Leah Wassenberg

**Friday, Dec. 18**

8:15am

† Joleen Fisher Cohorst

**Saturday, Dec. 19**

5:30pm

† Carole Cunningham

**Sunday, Dec. 20**

7:00am

~ The People of the Parishes of  
St. Gregory and St. Malachy

10:30am

† Jerry and Elsie Wempe

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Wednesday, Dec. 16**

11:00am - noon

Adoration

**Friday, Dec. 18**

8:45am - 9:45am

Adoration

**Saturday, Dec. 19**

4:30pm - 5:15pm

Confessions

**Sunday, Dec. 20**

3:00pm

Advent Penance Service at  
Sts. Peter and Paul in Seneca

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

St. Gregory Catholic School is seeking a Part-Time Teacher's Aide to begin as soon as possible. Full Job Description and the Application for Employment can be found on our school website <https://www.stgregorychurch.org/st-gregory-catholic-school>.

Interested applicants should turn in a printed copy of the application to the school office or email a digital copy to the email below. Call 562-2831 with questions or email [kfarrell@stgregorychurch.org](mailto:kfarrell@stgregorychurch.org). "We ask that you prayerfully consider this employment opportunity. It is a meaningful way to get involved with our school and help our students as they grow in faith and academics."

## WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Envelope &amp; Plate for December 6th \$ 9,694.64

ACH for December 5th \$ 3,755.00

(\$11,200 Expected Average Collection needed each week)

## BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

Loan Principal Balance (as of 12/04/20)..... \$863,743.49

Donations (since 12/01/20)..... (\$ 1,640.00)

Estimated Outstanding Expenses ..... \$83,272.25

**Total Parish Liability ..... \$945,375.74**

Total Contributions to Date ..... \$7,444,099.93

(\$9,100 needed each month for loan payment)

## REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

**Marjorie J. Cudney,**

longtime member of St. Gregory's.

A rosary will be on Monday, December 14th at 1:30pm  
with the funeral to follow at 2:00pm at St. Gregory's.

## THE ADVENT WREATH

**The Word** - "Advent" derives from the Latin verb "ven," which means to come. Beginning on the Sunday nearest to the Feast of St. Andrew, one week after the Feast of Christ the King, and encompassing four Sundays, we prepare ourselves to celebrate the coming of the Lord.

**The History** - Thought to be of pre-Christian Germanic origin, people lit candles and placed them on wreaths during the dark days of December as a sign of hope for the light to come with spring. Over time, the wreath was adapted by Christians, likely during the Middle Ages, to spiritually prepare for Christmas with Christ as the Light of the World.

**The Shape** - Christ is eternal; He has neither a beginning or an end. We can say the wreath itself reminds us of Christ's eternal presence with its circular shape.

**The Composition** - The tradition began with evergreen wreaths. Considering that this tradition goes way back, we might safely assume that people used what was available. Evergreens, plentiful and pliable, would have been a logical resource. To Catholics, evergreen symbolizes life. It remains green and alive even in the dead of winter.

**The Candles** - Rich in symbolism, candles crown a wreath with meaning. Amen! Assuredly, the flame represents Christ as the Light of the World. As the season progresses, congregations and families become more hopeful and expectant as more candles are lit to indicate that the Light of the World is ever closer.

**The Colors** - Typically, an Advent wreath bears four tapered candles: three purple and one pink. The three purple candles represent prayer, penance and preparatory sacrifice and are meant to remind us of the character our hearts should reflect during the season: One is pink and represents rejoicing. Advent is that time we wait for the approaching light - Our Lord.

**The Glory** - The four weeks have passed. It is Christmas Eve and Christ's presence is imminent. All of the candles burn as our reminder that there is One Great Light who will make himself known.

## ARCHDIOCESE NEWS

**New Year's Spiritual Reflection and Planning Retreat -**

Set aside time this year to focus on spiritual growth, create growth goals for various roles, devise steps to reach goals and write a vision statement for the year.

Christ's Peace House of Prayer  
22131 Meager Road, Easton, KS

Friday Jan. 8th, 5:30pm — Sunday, Jan. 10th, 4:30pm

To attend, send an email to: [info@christspeace.com](mailto:info@christspeace.com) or call 913.773.8255.



## ST. GREGORY THE GREAT CATHOLIC SCHOOL



This school year has been anything but easy, with extra precautions, remote learners, and much more but our teachers, staff, students, and families have persevered through it all. This year has proven just how strong our school community is. By working together, problem solving, and supporting each other, we have been able to continue a high level of academic learning as well as focus on deepening each student's relationship with Jesus. But we cannot do this without our generous donors and supporters. Thank you to all who support our school through time, talent, treasure, and prayers. Your generosity provides us the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our students.

As 2020 comes to a close, St. Gregory School is conducting a year-end giving campaign. Donation envelopes can be found in the back of the church. We ask that you please prayerfully consider a year-end donation to the school and place your donation in the envelope. You may mail your envelope to the school or drop it by the school/parish office at your convenience. Thank you for your continued support of St. Gregory Catholic School!! May God Bless!  
~Karen Farrell, Principal

## CELEBRATE

## BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 14	Colton Schmitz, Chase LeSage, Tyler Lienemann
Dec. 15	Everett Crome, Barb Knecht, Patti Wilson, Jean Dummermuth, Diane Ronnebaum
Dec. 16	Jack Lauer, Deb Rieth, Roberta Temeyer
Dec. 17	Simon Luebecke
Dec. 18	Mary Lou Voet, Skylar Rhodes, Brecklyn Finkbinder
Dec. 19	Melissa Ketter, Denise Nordhus, Glenda Stohs
Dec. 20	Madison Nemec, Paige Wilcox, Jacy Butler

## NO ANNIVERSARIES

## THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"More than Santa and presents,  
we're waiting for *Jesus*,  
with hope for everyone."

Matt Maher  
*The Advent of Christmas*

## PRAYER LIST

The power of prayer is an amazing thing! Please keep the following people in your prayers.

**Short Term Health Issues:** Paul "Peewee" Zimmerling, Marty Malotte and Anna Fragel.

**Long Term Health Issues:** Allie Montgomery, Gretchen Schmitz, Don Wassenberg, Alan Wassenberg, Lora Stohs, Tony Evans, Teresa Reiling, Mary Landoll, Boston Bieler, Debra Nietfeld Lambert, Joan Wacek, Katie Vering, Sami and Jack Kirkland.

*If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, call Margaret Huffman at 713-9653 or the Parish Office.*

## SUNDAY REFLECTION

*Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18)*

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

## CONTACTS

**CHURCH:** 1310 Carolina St. Marysville, Ks 66508 • **OFFICE:** 207 N. 14th St., Marysville, Ks 66508  
**OFFICE:** 785.562.3302 • **HALL:** 785.562.2711 • **SCHOOL:** 785.562.2831 • **FAX:** 785.562.4039 • **RECTORY:** 785.562.2989

Fr. Quentin Schmitz, Pastor  
qschmitz@archkck.org

Tracy Vering, Parish Secretary  
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Brenda Staggenborg,  
Bookkeeper/Technology Coordinator  
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Paula Landoll-Smith, Music Ministry  
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Allyson Lauer, School of Religion  
allysonlauer@yahoo.com

SCHOOL  
Karen Farrell, Principal  
kfarrell@stgregorychurch.org  
Susan Dressman, School Secretary  
sdressman@stgregorychurch.org

## COUNCIL CHAIRS

Parish Council: Sandy Schmitz

Finance Council: Chad Kramer

Cemetery: Frank Staggenborg at 562-8047

Parish Hall Reservations: Contact Parish Office

K of C Hall Reservations: Joe Peschel at 562-3161

Baptisms: See website for information

Weddings: Contact Father Quentin

*If someone is in need of the Eucharist taken to them, please call the Parish Office.*





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