

# ST. GREGORY'S CHURCH

Roman Catholic Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie

71 Estelle Street,  
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6C 2C3

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday to Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Telephone: 705-949-8883 / Fax: 705-949-4604 / Pastor's Cell: 705-542-7745



**Parish Priest:**

Father Eric Pannike

**Parish Deacon:**

Deacon Rob Thibodeau

**Parish Secretary:**

Anna Temporao

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Year B**

**Sunday, December 31st, 2017**

## Celebration of Masses, Devotions and Reconciliation

**Weekend Masses:**

Saturday: **5:00 p.m.**

Sunday: **9:00 a.m.** and **11:00 a.m.**

**Weekday Masses:**

Tuesday at **7:00 p.m.**

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday at **9:30 a.m.**

**The Rosary:**

Recited 1/2 hour before each weekday Mass

**Reconciliation:**

Confessions are heard every Saturday from  
**4:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. or by appointment.**

**Parish Mission Statement**

*"We, the people of St. Gregory's Community,  
rooted in Gospel values and gifted by the Spirit,  
are committed to proclaim and build the kingdom of God".*

**Parish Vision Statement**

*"To journey together with Jesus"*

**HAPPY** *New Year*

**BLESSINGS  
TO YOU  
& YOURS**

**"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU," DECLARES THE LORD'**

**E-mail: [gregoryssm@shaw.ca](mailto:gregoryssm@shaw.ca) / Website: [www.stgregoryssm.com](http://www.stgregoryssm.com)  
Deacon Rob Thibodeau cell: 705-975-2893/ E-mail: [robthibodeau@hotmail.ca](mailto:robthibodeau@hotmail.ca)**

# St. Gregory's Parish News



## Mass Intentions—January 1st—January 7th 2018



**Monday, January 1—10:00 a.m.**  
New Year's Day Mass

**Tuesday, January 2—7:00 p.m.**  
Intentions of Parishioners

**Wednesday, January 3—9:30 a.m.**  
Intentions of Parishioners

**Thursday, January 4—9:30 a.m.**  
Intentions of Parishioners

**Friday, January 5—9:30 a.m.**  
Intentions of Parishioners

**Saturday, January 6—5:00 p.m.**  
Vincenzo Bernardo—wife Luigina Bernardo  
Rosaria & Antonio Medaglia—Guido & Maria Medaglia & Family  
Alfonzo Longo—Carmela Longo & Family

**Sunday, January 7—9:00 a.m.**  
Intentions of Parishioners

**Sunday, January 7—11:00 a.m.**  
Enrico Gatto—Daughter Alba, Gina, Marisa & Family  
Salvatore & Angelina Sdao—Mollame Family  
Angela Posteraro—Gino Posteraro & Family  
Franco Giuliano—Deluca Family



### Finance Report

The Financial Report for December 24th collection will be posted in next weeks bulletin

**Thank you for your generosity!**

### Week of January 1—January 7

Monday	Numbers 6.22-27/Luke 2.16-21
Tuesday	1 John 2.22-28/John 1.19-28
Wednesday	1 John 2.29;3.1-6/John 1.29-34
Thursday	1 John 3.7-10/John 1.35-42
Friday	1 John 3.11-21/John 1.43-51
Saturday	1John 5.5-13/Mark 1.4-5,7-11++

### Epiphany of the Lord

1st READING	Isaiah 60.1-6
2nd READING	Ephesians 3.2-3a,5-6
GOSPEL	Matthew 2.1-12

**Weekday Mass Change**  
Due to the small number of people attending weekday Mass, we have been celebrating Mass Wednesday, Thursday & Friday in the office boardroom.

*Please now enter through the Church doors.*  
**Tuesday Mass will now be celebrated in the Church Tuesday at 7:00 pm.**



### Trivia Question of the Week



Last weeks question— What major saint is believed to have put together the first nativity scene?

Answer: St Francis of Assisi (1181 or 1182 – 1226 A.D.)

*Check next weeks bulletin for answers*

**When the pregnant Blessed Mother showed up at Elizabeth's house, Elizabeth's baby leaped inside her womb.**

**Who was the baby?**

*Previous and Present bulletins can be found on our website at [www.stgregoryssm.com](http://www.stgregoryssm.com)*

## St. Gregory's Parish News



Thank You to all who responded to the call of Pope Francis to be a 'poor church and a church for the poor' and made donations on Poverty Sunday. Your generosity does not go unnoticed and is greatly appreciated!

### 2018 Contribution Envelopes

The contribution envelopes are available at the entrance of the church. Please pick up your envelopes as early as possible. *Thank you.*

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!**

**St. Vincent's Place Thrift Store** is looking for volunteers to help out with tagging, sorting and racking the new arrivals in clothing. Help is needed on Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:00am to 3:00pm. If you are interested in helping out, please call Elizabeth Failes, the Thrift Store Manager, at 905-541-9478. *Proceeds from the Thrift Store support the operation of the St. Vincent Place Men's Shelter, Food Bank and Soup Kitchen."*

### **'Journey' Lottery Message**

Everyone is excited that the 'Journey's' multi-purpose building, historical gallery and courtyard featuring 'Our Lady at the Rapids' is under construction. To match the excitement, the 'Journey' lottery has been changed as advised by many. This year's lottery will have a grand prize draw of \$25,000 and five additional draws of \$1,000 each. The tickets will be drawn on Holy Saturday, March 31, 2018 at 12 pm at Precious Blood Cathedral. Remember there are only 6,000 tickets printed. Join the excitement and support the 'Journey' Lottery. Thank you for your continuing support. *Your support is essential. Tickets also available at St. Gregory's parish office.*



My Dear "JOY-Full Socks" supporters, the 2017 campaign has turned out to be another very generous year, thanks to your compassionate and kind souls. We collected a total of 2800 pairs of socks !!! My heart is filled with JOY and I thank you all very much! With Love and a grateful heart,

*Leslie*

### **Dear Parishioners,**

It is a special joy to see young families taking part in the Mass and engaged in the life of the parish. We welcome crying babies! It is a sign that the church is young and alive. We have a very talented, caring and energetic team organizing Children's Liturgy program every Sunday. We encourage parents to bring your children to participate in Liturgy of the Word with children during our **Sunday 11:00 a.m. Mass.**

*Let us try our best to keep the gift of faith alive and active.*



## Catholic Women's League News

### **CWL General Meeting.**

Our CWL general meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 3rd, 2018 in the Parish Hall. Installation of Executive will take place in the Church at 7:30pm. Meeting to follow in the Parish Hall. **See you there!**

### Membership fees due

The 2018 membership fees (\$22.00) are now due and must be paid by **December 31, 2017.**

If paid by December 31, your name will be entered into a draw for a free membership.

Please include your payment (cheque payable to St. Gregory's CWL) or cash in an envelope with your name, address and telephone number. Please put your payment in the collection basket on Sunday.

*New members are welcome.*

## Holy Family

We celebrate this weekend the Feast of the Holy Family. As with many things in the Church, this feast has a history. Devotion to the Holy Family was actively encouraged in the 1800's, and this feast was first established as part of the Christmas Season in 1921. It was placed on the weekend following Christmas as part of the liturgical reforms of 1969.

Our readings today are very practical. They do not present family life as some ideal perfection, but rather address the very real struggles of living closely together with daily problems. As we listen to these words of scripture, let us listen for and imagine **our own** family situations, and pray for the strength to be faithful to our call.

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## Santa Famiglia

Oggi si celebra la Festa della Santa Famiglia. Come molte cose nella Chiesa questa festa ha la sua storia. Devozione alla Santa Famiglia fu attivamente incoraggiata negli anni 1800, e questa festa fu prima stabilita come parte del Tempo Natalizio nel 1921. Fu posta nella Domenica dopo Natale come parte delle riforme liturgiche del 1969.

Le nostre letture di oggi sono molto pratiche. Non ci presentano la vita in famiglia come un ideale di perfezione, ma ci dimostrano come nella vita quotidiana si deve lottare per affrontare e risolvere insieme tanti problemi. Mentre ascoltiamo queste parole nelle sacre scritture cerchiamo a scoprire le stesse situazioni che esistono nelle **nostre proprie** famiglie, e a pregare per la forza di essere fedeli alla nostra vocazione.



# Mary, the Mother of God

January 1

Once again we celebrate in the context of a day with a complex history. While the civil year once began on March 1, in the year 46 BC the calendar was revised by the Roman government to begin the year on January 1 (although of course our Church year begins in Advent). Roman society made the beginning of the year a feast in honour of their god Janus, and celebrated with boisterous joy, superstitious practices and gross orgies. The early Church struggled to balance these customs by calling Christians to observe these days with penance and fasting instead. Special penitential Masses were written for the first three days of January, and some of their prayers survived in the January 1 Mass until the 1960's. But we might do well today to heed the words preached by St. Augustine in a sermon from around the year 400:

*Let them give new year's gifts: you should give alms.*

*Let them sing boisterous songs: you should open your hearts to the word of God.*

*Let them rush to the theatre: you should rush to the church.*

*Let them get drunk: you should fast.*

A further attempt by the Church to separate from pagan practices was the creation of January 1 as the anniversary of Mary as the Mother of God. But by the sixth century, the Circumcision of the Lord was being celebrated on January 1 in the churches of both Spain and Gaul; in the fourteen hundreds, Rome also had adopted this circumcision theme for the day, and the connection with the motherhood of Mary was once again lost. It was not until the liturgical reforms of 1969 that universal Catholic practice returned Mary the Mother of God as the major theme of our January 1 celebration. And the Gospel reading for today of course retains the reference to the Circumcision and naming of the Lord.



## Maria Santissima Madre di Dio 1 Gennaio

Oggi si celebra il contesto di un giorno con una storia complessa. Mentre che la guerra civile incominciò il Marzo 1, nell'anno 46 BC il calendario fu cambiato dal governo Romano, per incominciare l'anno il primo Gennaio (anche se l'anno della chiesa si incomincia con l'Avvento). La società Romana fece il primo d'anno come una festa in onore del loro dio Janus, celebrato con gioia chiassosa, modi superstiziosi, ed orgie lorde. La Chiesa del principio lottò a bilanciare queste usanze chiedendo i Cristiani per osservare questi giorni con penitenza e digiuno. Messe speciali per la penitenza furono scritte per i primi tre giorni di Gennaio, e certe preghiere furono usate per la messa di Capo d'Anno fino agli anni Sessanta. Ma oggi si farà bene a sentire le parole che Santo Agostino usò durante una predica in giro a l'anno 400:

*Lascia loro che danno doni di anno nuovo: Voi date elemosina.*

*Lascia loro che cantano canzoni chiassose: Voi aprite i vostri cuori alle parole di Dio.*

*Lascia loro che corrono al teatro: Voi correte alla chiesa.*

*Lascia loro che si ubriacano: Voi invece digiunate.*

La chiesa fece un altro tentativo per separare usanze pagane fu la creazione del Primo Gennaio come l'anniversario di Maria come la Madre di Dio. Ma al sesto secolo, la Circoncisione del Signore essendo celebrata il Primo Gennaio nelle chiese della Spagna e Gallia; nel 1400, Roma anche adottò il tema di circoncisione per il giorno, e la connessione con la maternità di Maria fu perduta un'altra volta. Non fu prima della riforma liturgica del 1969 che la chiesa Cattolica universale ritornò Maria Madre di Dio come il tema maggiore della celebrazione del Primo Gennaio. Le letture del Vangelo di oggi, naturalmente ritengono riferimento alla Circoncisione e il nominare del Signore.



# Up and Coming Events

Mark your Calendar!

Revised December 21

Changes **highlighted**

Sun Dec 31 ..... **New Year's Eve Mass** Mary the Mother of God  
4:00pm St. Gregory Church

Mon Jan 1 ..... **New Year's Day Mass** Mary the Mother of God  
10:00am St. Gregory Church

December 25 - January 1

**Office Closed**

Re-opens January 2

Tue Jan 2 ..... **Mass**  
7:00pm St. Gregory Church

Tue Jan 2 ..... **Choir Practice**  
7:30pm St. Gregory Church

Wed Jan 3 ..... **Mass**  
9:30am St. Gregory office Boardroom & Chapel

Wed Jan 3 ..... **CWL General Meeting** Installation of New Executive  
7:30pm St. Gregory Parish Hall

Thu Jan 4 ..... **Mass**  
9:30am St. Gregory office Boardroom & Chapel

Thu Jan 4 ..... **Edge** Catholic Youth Night Grades 6,7,8  
7:00pm St. Jerome Parish Hall all parishes invited!

Fri Jan 5 ..... **Mass**  
9:30am St. Gregory office Boardroom & Chapel

Fri Jan 5 ..... **Elevate** Catholic Young Adults Evening 18-25 yrs  
6:30pm St. Jerome Parish Hall (includes dinner) all parishes invited!

Fri Jan 5 ..... **Alcoholics Anonymous**  
8:00pm St. Gregory Parish Hall

Sat Jan 6 ..... **Confessions**  
4:15 - 4:45pm St. Gregory Church

Sat Jan 6 ..... **Mass**  
5:00pm St. Gregory Church

Sun Jan 7 ..... **Mass**  
9:00am St. Gregory Church

Sun Jan 7 ..... **Mass & pre-Baptism Anointings** - Seabrook, Coccimiglio & Shuba families  
11:00am St. Gregory Church

Sun Jan 7 ..... **Baptism** - Seabrook family  
after Mass St. Gregory Church

Tue Jan 9 ..... **Mass**  
**9:30am** St. Gregory office Boardroom & Chapel

Tue Jan 9 ..... **Regional Evangelization Team Meeting**  
7:00 - 9:00pm St. Jerome's Church

Tue Jan 9 ..... **Choir Practice**  
7:30pm St. Gregory Church

Wed Jan 10 ..... **Mass**  
9:30am St. Gregory office Boardroom & Chapel

Thu Jan 11 ..... **Mass**  
9:30am St. Gregory office Boardroom & Chapel

Thu Jan 11 ..... **Edge** Catholic Youth Night Grades 6,7,8  
7:00pm St. Jerome Parish Hall all parishes invited!

Fri Jan 12 ..... **Mass**  
9:30am St. Gregory office Boardroom & Chapel

Fri Jan 12 ..... **Elevate** Catholic Young Adults Evening 18-25 yrs  
6:30pm St. Jerome Parish Hall (includes dinner) all parishes invited!

Fri Jan 12 ..... **Alcoholics Anonymous**  
8:00pm St. Gregory Parish Hall

Sat Jan 13 ..... **Confessions**  
4:15 - 4:45pm St. Gregory Church

Sat Jan 13 ..... **Mass**  
5:00pm St. Gregory Church

Sun Jan 14 ..... **Mass**  
9:00am St. Gregory Church

Sun Jan 14 ..... **Mass**  
11:00am St. Gregory Church

Tue Jan 16 ..... **Mass**  
7:00pm St. Gregory Church

Tue Jan 16 ..... **Choir Practice**  
7:30pm St. Gregory Church

Wed Jan 17 ..... **Mass**  
9:30am St. Gregory office Boardroom & Chapel

Wed Jan 17 ..... **CWL Executive Meeting**  
7:15pm St. Gregory Parish Hall