

# St. Gregory The Great

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
FOUNDED 1843  
THE MOTHER CHURCH OF DURHAM



## OFFICE

194 Simcoe St. N.  
OSHAWA, ON L1G 4S9

Tel: 905-723-8141

web site: [www.stgregorythegreat.archtoronto.org](http://www.stgregorythegreat.archtoronto.org)

email: [stgregorythegreat@archtoronto.org](mailto:stgregorythegreat@archtoronto.org)

## Pastor

Fr. Marijan Sisko

## Deacon

David MacInnis

## Administrative Assistant

Jacqueline Martin

## Office Hours

Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon &  
1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

## Weekend Mass

Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

## Weekday Mass

Tuesday 12:10 p.m., Friday 7:00 p.m.

## Confession

Friday 6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

## Baptism

Please approach the Priest after you have  
participated at Sunday Mass.

## Marriage

One year notice (Archdiocesan guideline)  
Marriage Preparation required  
Please contact the parish priest

## Visits To The Sick

Please contact the parish office for  
more information.

## Natural Family Planning:

Helping married couples live out the teachings  
of the Catholic Church  
[bit.ly/NFP-Brochure-OFD-SMI](http://bit.ly/NFP-Brochure-OFD-SMI)

## Catholic Cemeteries

St. Gregory's & Resurrection

905-668-8912

or [www.catholic-cemeteries.com](http://www.catholic-cemeteries.com)

## Durham Catholic District School Board

905-576-6150

or [www.dcdsb.ca](http://www.dcdsb.ca)

## Society of St. Vincent De Paul- Help Line

905-720-0003

## Letters of Reference for Catholic Teacher Applicants

If you are a teacher, from this Parish and  
require a reference letter, please note that you  
will have to be attending Mass here regularly  
for at least 6 months and if possible  
participating in a Parish ministry before such a  
recommendation will be given.

(<http://bit.ly/PracticingCath>). Teachers who are  
finishing teachers' college will need a pastoral  
letter from their own parish priest where they  
attend Sunday Mass.

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| SUN.  | <b>Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> Fourth Sunday of Advent</b><br>8:00 am – <b>Mass at St. Gregory's</b>  |
| SUN.  | 9:30 am – <b>Mass at St. Gregory's</b><br>- For the People   |
| SUN.  | 12:00 pm <b>Mass at Holy Cross</b>   |
| TUES. | <b>Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> St. Stephen The First Martyr</b><br>12:10 pm <b>Mass at St. Gregory's – Adoration after Mass*</b>  |
| WED.  | <b>Dec. 27 St. John Apostle and Evangelist</b><br>8:30 am <b>Mass at Holy Cross</b>  |
| THUR  | <b>Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</b><br>8:30 am <b>Mass at Holy Cross</b>   |
| FRI.  | <b>Dec. 29<sup>th</sup></b><br>6:00 pm-6:45 pm-- <b>St. Gregory's Confessions and Adoration</b><br>7:00 pm <b>Mass at St. Gregory's</b><br>+ <b>Joe Pezzarello</b> |
| SAT.  | <b>Dec. 30<sup>th</sup></b> 3:30 pm- 4:15 pm-- Holy Cross<br>Confession - 4:30 pm <b>Mass at Holy Cross</b>  |
| SUN.  | <b>Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> - The Holy Family Of Jesus, Mary &amp; Joseph</b><br>8:00 am - <b>Mass at St. Gregory's</b><br>- <b>For the People</b>                     |
| SUN.  | 9:30 am - <b>Mass at St. Gregory's</b>   |
| SUN   | 12:00 pm - <b>Mass at Holy Cross</b>   |

### Sacramental Preparation

Did you miss Registration for 1st Holy Communion or Confirmation? It's not too late. Please contact the office.

**First Communion Prep Class #3 at 10:45 a.m.**

- Sunday January 14, 2024 at St. Gregory the Great Parish Hall (190 Simcoe St. N.)

**Confirmation Prep Class #3 at 10:45 a.m.**

-Sunday January 21st, 2024 in Holy Cross Parish Hall (373 Simcoe St)

The Sanctuary Candle is burning bright this month in memory of **Lucy Tillaart Manson**. This has been requested by Mike & Lavinia Gallagher.

### Prayer Corner

Almighty God, we ask salvation for those who believe in you. Hear us on behalf of your servants who are sick, for whom we humbly beg the help of your mercy, that they may be restored to health. We pray especially for:

**The sick: Teri Normoyle**

**For the recently departed: Matthew Hilton**

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Today is a suitable occasion to look right into our hearts, to see how we stand with God. During the week we shall be keeping the feast of Christmas. The Baby in the manger will remind us of what God has done and is still doing for us. What are we doing in return? Have we shown our gratitude by living as true followers of Christ? If most of us must answer: "no," this is the time to change our course and return to the right road once more. God is asking this of us today. Shall our answer be: "behold here I am Lord, your humble and grateful servant, let it be done to me according to your word"?

### 2024 Envelopes

The 2024 envelopes are now available at the back of the church in alphabetical order. If you used envelopes last year you have been assigned a number. If you are new to the Parish and wish to use Offertory Envelopes please contact the office so one can be assigned to you. Please do not use the 2024 envelopes until January 2024. Also, consider signing up for preauthorized giving (PAG).

### Christmas & New Years' Mass Schedule

#### Christmas Eve Vigil: December 24

**4:30pm** -Holy Cross

**7:00 pm** St. Gregory The Great – **with incense**

#### Christmas Day: December 25

**8:00am** – St. Gregory the Great

**9:30am** – St. Gregory the Great

**12noon** – Holy Cross

#### New Year's Eve: December 31

**4:30 pm** – Holy Cross

#### New Year's Day: January 1, 2024

**8:00am** – St. Gregory the Great

**9:30am** – St. Gregory the Great

**12noon** – Holy Cross

### SSVP Christmas Outreach:

On behalf of all our neighbours in need, we thank everyone who participated in any of our Christmas outreach efforts for their incredible generosity. Whether it was hygiene kits, angel tree or general family help, you have helped to make Christmas a much more joyful occasion for a lot of our neighbours.

Please remember St. Gregory's Parish in your will.

### **DONATIONS FOR 2023**

Donations must be received in the Parish Office by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 to be receipted for the 2023 taxation year. Any donations received after December 31<sup>st</sup> will be recorded in the 2024 taxation year.

### **Sharing Our Gifts**

For many of us, an important part of the holiday season is exchanging gifts with the people we love. We try to find gifts for our loved ones that are a sign of how much we care for them. During this season of sharing gifts and sharing love, we must keep in mind the many people who need us to be a sign of God's love for them.

Those who need a sign of God's love include those in poverty, those under attack of war, the elderly, the lonely, and many more. Decide to make a difference in someone's life for Christmas and bring God's love to someone in need.

### **Warm Clothing is Needed!**

The St. Vincent De Paul store is in need of warm clothing. Especially needed items are coats, boots, hats & gloves. Please remember the less fortunate. Drop off boxes are located at St. Mary of the People Church on Stevenson Road.

### **Friars Student Writing Contest 2024** **(Deadline for entries is January 15)**

**Theme:** "You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbour as yourself." (Luke 10:27).

High school students (ages 13-19yrs) in the Catholic School Boards are invited to participate in this annual event. Write a five-hundred-word essay that explores the 2024 theme. Great prizes await the top three submissions. Students are to consult the resources at <https://rb.gy/wajo9> to understand the meaning and purpose of the theme and address the focus question found on the poster at <https://bit.ly/3G0I4zT> and submit their entries at:

<https://www.catholicregister.org/writingaward>.

### **Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, friends, Merry Christmas!**

We celebrate Christmas, which is the Birth of Christ. He was born 2,000 years ago, so what is the point of celebrating it now? Well, that event is really made present to us through the mystery and liturgy of the Church. Then, when we celebrate Christmas, we are present at the event of Jesus' Birth.

Moreover, we celebrate not only Jesus' birthday but His Birth to us, in us. How is Jesus born in us? That happens when we, like His and our Mother Mary, welcome the word of God through the Church and her Sacraments, we seek to do **God's will (Matt 6:10)**. Thus, we truly celebrate Christmas, Christmas is realized in us when we **do God's will when we give space in our hearts to Jesus**. How can we do the will of God? In simple terms, God has to give us His grace and we need to cooperate with His grace so that we may do the will of God. As God offers us His grace, we learn about the will of God in the Church; we receive the Sacraments by which we learn to give space to Christ in our hearts; we learn to reject our will in so far as it is indifferent to and contrary to the will of God, to His commandments (**CCC**, 2083-2557), teachings, and precepts of the Church (**CCC**, 2041-2043); we reject our sins through the Sacrament of **reconciliation and we welcome God's forgiveness and healing**; we faithfully receive Jesus in the Eucharist as food that makes Him grow in us; we persistently pray to Him to help us recognize His will in our daily life; we adapt ourselves and align ourselves with the will of God. In this way, we conceive Christ and give birth to Him in our hearts and lives. It seems that this is the ultimate **practical purpose of Christ's Birth, that we become and remain God's children not only in name but primarily in reality, as those who do the will of our Heavenly Father**. Therefore, may the Lord help us always to do His will, be His children born of Him, the witnesses of His love and truth in this world. Such Merry Christmas to you and your family, your dear ones.

***Yours in Christ, Fr. Marijan Sisko***



|   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
|  <p><b>EMBER'S<br/>GAS<br/>FIREPLACE<br/>SERVICE</b></p> <p>All Makes<br/>Cleaning &amp; Fans<br/>Fully Licenced, Insured<br/><b>905-728-0499</b><br/>www.gasfireplaceservice.ca<br/>Parishioners</p> | <p><b>MARKS AND MARKS</b><br/>Barristers and Solicitors<br/>Bradley J. Marks, LL.B.<br/><b>905-728-5151</b><br/>brad.marksandmarks@gmail.com</p>  |  <p><b>LEGEND OF FAZIO'S</b><br/>Italian Steakhouse.<br/>Separate party room for<br/>Birthdays, Baptisms, Communion...<br/>Brunch after Sunday service.<br/><b>33 Simcoe St S 905-240-1199</b><br/>legendoffazios.com</p> | <p><b>CREIGHTON LAW LLP</b><br/>Barristers &amp; Solicitors<br/>235 King St. E.<br/><b>905-723-3446</b><br/>- Serving the community for over 130 years -</p>   |
|  <p><b>McIntosh-Anderson-Kellam</b><br/>FUNERAL HOME LTD. EST. 1853</p> <p>Meeting Your Family's Needs<br/>John O. Kellam - Funeral Director<br/>152 King St. E. <b>905.433.5558</b></p>              | <p><b>Shop LOCAL • Spend LOCAL</b><br/><b>Eat LOCAL • Enjoy LOCAL</b><br/>and support the local businesses<br/>that support your parish</p>   | <p><b>DR. PETER RIORDAN</b><br/>Family Dentistry<br/>Riordan Building,<br/>973 Simcoe St. N.<br/><b>905-433-0737</b></p>  |  <p><b>BERRY HILL</b><br/>FOOD COMPANY<br/>Downtown Oshawa's Best Brunch<br/>Catering &amp; Restaurant<br/>82 King St. W. <b>905.240.9055</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Remember...</b><br/>Let our advertisers know<br/>you saw their ad here.</p>    | <p><b>Mariia Pitolai</b><br/>Immigration Consultant<br/>www.mp-immigration.ca<br/>mariia@mp-immigration.ca<br/>289-927-4191<br/>English, Ukrainian, Polish, Russian</p>  <p><b>RCIC</b><br/>Regulated Canadian<br/>Immigration Consultant<br/>R709999</p>    | <p><b>Mike McMahon</b><br/>B.A. Broker<br/>Right At Home Realty Inc.<br/><b>905-240-4000</b><br/>homebymike@gmail.com<br/>www.HomesByMike.com<br/>"Real Estate made Easy"</p>   | <p><b>MyCrush Auto</b><br/>Off Lease Car Sales<br/>Complete Collision Repair<br/>Insurance claims<br/>Mike Rush • <b>905-668-2467</b><br/>405 Mary St. E., Whitby</p> <p><b>BLOOR RAILING LTD.</b><br/>Interior Stairs &amp; Railings<br/>Exterior Railings<br/>Cash &amp; Carry<br/>bloorrailing@rogers.com<br/>361 Bloor St. E. <b>905-579-5077</b></p>  |
| <p><b>DR. JOHN BRUNO OPTOMETRIST</b><br/>AND ASSOCIATES<br/>DR. SHARON LAMSON<br/>DR. MEGAN BYER<br/>WWW.DRJOHNBRUNO.CA</p> <p>114 STEVENSON RD S<br/>OSHAWA, ON<br/>L1J 5M1<br/><b>905-432-8148</b></p>  |  <p>Theresa Grant<br/>Sales Representative<br/>Because<br/>Trust is<br/>Everything</p> <p>O: 905-723-5944<br/>C: 905-431-1128<br/>theresagrantsgroup@kw.com<br/>Keller Williams Energy<br/>Real Estate, Brokerage<br/>Independently owned and operated</p> | <p><b>B.T.T.R. WINDOW &amp; DOOR PRODUCTS INC.</b></p> <p><b>Clare Pearce</b></p> <p>909 Simcoe St. N.,<br/>Unit 1B<br/>Oshawa, ON L1G 4W1</p> <p><b>905-571-2887</b></p>    | <p><b>SALES REPRESENTATIVE<br/>WANTED</b></p> <p>Liturgical Publications, your weekly bulletin printer has<br/>an opening for a <b>full time Sales Representative</b>.<br/>Base Salary • Commission • Car Allowance • Travel Expenses<br/>If you have a drive to succeed and are self-motivated,<br/>email your resume to salesrep@parishbulletins.com</p> |
| <p><b>Oshawa<br/>Health<br/>Centre</b></p>  <p><b>PHARMACY</b></p> <p>All Drug Plans Accepted<br/>Free Delivery<br/>247 Simcoe St. N. <b>905-576-4400</b></p>                                      | <p><b>Quality Home Improvements QHI</b><br/>IMPROVEMENTS<br/>OSHAWA LTD.</p> <p>Improving homes in Durham<br/>for over 30 years<br/>WINDOWS • DOORS<br/>SIDING • AWNINGS<br/>Debra Hogel<br/>Owner/Customer Service<br/><b>905-721-7519</b><br/>www.qhionline.ca</p>  | <p><b>THE PERFECT SPOT<br/>TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS!</b></p>  <p><b>TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SPACE PLEASE CALL<br/>1-800-268-2637</b></p>  | <p><b>Shopping Locally Saves Gas</b></p>    |