

Sacred Heart Catholic Church St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
415 W. 5th St. ~ PO Box 45
Rush City, MN 55069

MASS TIMES:
Wednesday ~ 9:00 am
1st Saturday Mass ~ 9:00 am
Sunday ~ 8:30 am

ADORATION:
Wednesday ~ 9:30 am - Noon

RECONCILIATION:
Wednesday ~ 9:30 am
1st Sunday ~ 8:00 - 8:20 am

St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church
38725 Forest Blvd ~ PO Box 609
North Branch, MN 55056

MASS TIMES:
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday ~ 8:30 am
Wednesday ~ 5:00 pm
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotion ~ 4:50 pm
Saturday ~ 5:00 pm
Sunday ~ 10:30 am

ADORATION:
Tuesdays & Friday ~ 7:30 - 8:20 am
Thursday ~ 9:00 am - 9:00 pm

RECONCILIATION:
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday ~ 8:00 am
Saturday ~ 4:00 - 4:30 pm

ROSARY:
Saturday ~ 4:30 pm
Sunday ~ 10:00 am



Parish Staff:

Pastor - Fr. Matt Shireman fathermatt@stgregorynb.org
Deacon - Dn. Kevin Downie | **Assisting Priest - Fr. Chuck Brambilla**
Bookeeper: Mary Felix mary@stgregorynb.org

SACRED HEART PARISH OFFICE

320-358-4370 | FAX: 866-779-1580
shc415@hotmail.com
www.sacredheartrcmn.org

Admin Asst: Marsha Marcussen
Project Asst./Music: Steve Yurick
Tina Heidelberger, Faith Formation,
763-670-8594,
tina.joeheidelberger@gmail.com

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:
Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday -
8:30am - 12:30pm

ST. GREGORY PARISH OFFICE

651-674-4056 info@stgregorynb.org www.stgregorynb.org
Donna Groschen, Admin Asst., Safe Environment Coordinator

Cathie Hendren, Music Director
Rosemary Balster, Sexton
Vince Hendren, Youth Music
Rich Ohmann, Maintenance Dir.
Lisa Ohmann, Custodial Tech.

Barb Karel, KIC Coordinator
Patty Miller, KIC/DOC Admin Asst
Danielle Miller, DOC Coordinator
Liz Long, Youth Events Leader
Donald Ohmann, Maint./Grounds
Jacob Ohmann, Maint./Grounds

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:
Monday & Friday - 8:00am - 1:00pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday - 8:00am - 4:30pm

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE HOURS:
Tuesday & Thursday - 8:00am - 4:30pm
Wednesday (class nights) - Noon - 8:00pm

Feb. 22, 2026 1st Sunday of Lent ~ March 1, 2026 2nd Sunday of Lent

ACCOMPANYING FAMILIES

First, I want to provide a quick update on the parish survey. At St. Gregory's, the Parish Leadership Team and I have begun to analyze the results from the 74 online responses plus the additional ones submitted by paper. We plan to have full details of the results at a later date. At Sacred Heart, although the Parish Council and I did not talk about a survey, we should be able to move forward with it in the coming months.

Ever since Archbishop Hebda's original Synod Assembly in 2022, we have known that the parishes would be focusing on families at some point. That time has come. Archbishop Hebda's forthcoming pastoral letter on families is called "Only One Thing is Necessary." The name comes from Luke 10:42 where Jesus is speaking to Martha that her sister Mary has done something praiseworthy—being totally focused on the Lord. By choosing this line as the theme for his pastoral letter, Archbishop Hebda is encouraging all families to prioritize faith. Although this is the goal for every family, we know in reality that families need help in achieving what God desires. The Catholic Church (broadly speaking) and the Archdiocese and our parishes (in particular) need to do a better job of forming life-long disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The staff and I are beginning to read through the pastoral letter. We will be discussing what it means for our parishes. In the coming months, the Faith Formation team will begin to set a plan for next year. At some point, the pastoral letter will be publicly released. We will let you know when that occurs, especially as Archbishop Hebda is asking for every Catholic to read and pray with the letter.

While we plan for the official rollout, there are things that we can already suggest. Families are the domestic Church; it is where young people learn to pray to God and love other people. The Synod implementation focus this year has been on reclaiming Sundays as the privileged time of worship and rest, so participating in Sunday Mass and making space for relationships will be something to continue to always grow in. Having support systems for parents, such as participation in parish small groups, will continue to be emphasized, although we need to pray as a community as to how to make opportunities like those accessible to busy families.

May God bless all of our families. -Fr. Matt Shireman

HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

LENT 2026 EVENTS

STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

Fridays at 7:00pm at both churches
Confession offered at St. Gregory at 6:30pm on March 6 & 20

Living Stations performance at St. Gregory:
March 27 at 5:00pm (followed by KC Bingo)

Walking Stations of the Cross:
April 3, 3:00pm (Good Friday)
at North Branch Outlet Mall

LENT RECONCILIATION TIMES:

Sacred Heart - Tuesday, March 24,
5:00-6:30pm (drop-in confessions)
St. Gregory - Tuesday, March 31,
6:30-7:30pm (Prayer service with 2 priests)

LENTEN RETREAT AT ST. GENEVIEVE IN HUGO:

All adults and older teens are welcome! Attend this one-day retreat on Saturday, February 28, 8:30am to 12:00pm, with speaker Erin O'Leary, who has 30+ years in education and faith formation ministries.

Through our Baptism, we are given our mission to live as Christ - as priest, prophet, and king. We can do this by really knowing and living the Works of Mercy with the help of Christ's Divine Mercy.

Register on the parish website (stgens.org/retreat), call (651-429-7937). Cost: \$20.00. You may pay at the door. (Parish Community Center, 6995 Centerville Rd, Centerville)

LENTEN RETREAT AT SACRED HEART

Men and women are all welcome! Please join us on Saturday, March 14, 9:00am to 12:00pm at Sacred Heart for a Lenten Retreat on the Holy Face of Jesus Devotion.

Materials and refreshments will be provided. While there is no set fee, a free-will offering is greatly appreciated.

RSVP to Sandy Pelant at 612-245-8986 (call, text, or message) or email sandypelant2012@gmail.com.



RECLAIMING SUNDAYS:

Lent began with Ash Wednesday (February 18). One of the great prayer opportunities for Lent is the Stations of the Cross, which focuses on the moments close to the time of Jesus' death. The activity is to pray the Stations as a family. One option is to come to the parish's celebration at 7 p.m. on a Friday during Lent. Alternatively, you could find a version on YouTube, Formed.org, or the Relevant Radio app. Teach the parts that get said every time (e.g. "By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.").

SACRED HEART LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS BEGIN FEBRUARY 20TH:

Lenten soup suppers have started! Our weekly gatherings take place every **Friday at 6:00 PM, followed by Stations of the Cross at 7:00 PM, and will continue each week until March 27th**. These gatherings offer a meaningful opportunity for fellowship and reflection as a community before we enter the holiest days of our faith. **Sign-up sheets are available in the back of the church for each remaining date; please sign up if you are able to prepare and donate a pot of soup and bread, and we also ask that those planning to attend sign up so we can prepare accordingly. Thank you!**

SACRED HEART

SACRED HEART FAITH FORMATION:

Tina Heidelberg ~ 763-670-8594,
tina.joeheidelberg@gmail.com

Confirmation: Danielle Miller ~ danielle@stgregorynb.org

SMALL GROUPS

Small Groups are Open to All Adults The parish small groups continue to welcome new participants, even on a trial basis. For more information on the groups, contact Fr. Matt (fathermatt@stgregorynb.org).

Mondays from 6-7:30pm in the Parish House.

Wednesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. at Rushseba Senior Living Center, Sandy Pelant.

Thursdays from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Parish House, Connie Blomquist.

1st and 3rd Sunday from 9:30-11:30 in Parish House.

Men's small group, 3rd Saturday of each month @ St. Gregory's from 7:30am-9am.

Sisters of The Sacred Heart

Please mark your calendars for the Sisters of the Sacred Heart meetings, which are held on each 3rd Thursday's in Wey Hall at 6:30 pm. **The next one will be on February 19, 2026.**

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you or a loved one are ill in any way and would like to have your name included in the Sunday Prayers of the Faithful, contact the Parish office. Also, any prayer request or needs can be written in our Parish Intercessory Book in the back of church at any time.

PRAYERS FOR:

Carole Stenger, Pat Mihm, Audrey Larson, Ken & David Kirchberg, Shirley Kirchberg, Grace Schwaab,, Sue Roth, Gerald Mollberg, Erin Hestbeck-Mielke, Gary Frazier, Jim Brenna, Margery Steininger, Violet Pearson, Tori Yurick-Schieber, Al & Mary Petschl, Denise Boyd.

Call the Parish Office to have yourself or loved one added to this prayer list for up to 3 months at a time.

COMMUNION VISITS:

Are you or someone you know homebound and desiring to receive Holy Communion? Or in need of Confession or the Anointing of the Sick (which is not just for people who are actively dying)? Let the Church come to you! To set a time that works for you, please contact the parish office.

Journeying Through Lent

As we begin this holy season, we invite you to reflect on the Gospel messages of these first two weeks, which serve as a roadmap for our 40-day journey.

First Sunday of Lent: The Desert We walk with Jesus into the desert as He faces temptation. This week, let us identify the "deserts" in our own lives—those places of struggle or distraction—and rely on prayer and Scripture to find our way back to God's grace.

Second Sunday of Lent: The Mountain We ascend the mountain to witness the Transfiguration. This glimpse of Christ's glory is meant to encourage us. Even in the midst of our Lenten sacrifices, we keep our eyes fixed on the promise of the Resurrection and the light that conquers all darkness. Lenten Prayer: Lord, as we journey from the desert to the mountain, guide our hearts. May our fasting make us hungry for You, and our almsgiving make us generous to others.

As we begin our Lenten journey, let's remember: We don't fast to suffer; we fast to hunger for God. What is one thing you are setting aside to make more room for Him this year?

Mass Intentions

Wednesday, Feb. 25th

9:00 am †Brian Erickson

Sunday, March 1st

8:30 am †Joe & Elsie Moore

Wednesday, March 4th

9:00 am †Tom, Terry & Tim Solorz

Saturday, March 7th

9:00 am †Presiders Choice

Sunday, March 8th

8:30 am †Ralph & Dorothy Anderson



Financial Update	Budget	Actual
January 2026	\$10,020	\$6,612

OUR MISSION

Sacred Heart parish is a community of Catholic Christian believers, established by the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. We strive to grow in holiness through prayer, celebration of the Eucharist and other sacraments, and reflection on the scriptures. We work hard to build the kingdom of God through evangelization, catechesis and service for all.

ST. GREGORY THE GREAT

Faith Formation Office: 651-674-7382

Barb Karel, Coordinator ~ barb@stgregorynb.org
 Patty Miller, Admin Asst. ~ patty@stgregorynb.org
 Danielle Miller, Confirmation ~ danielle@stgregorynb.org
 Liz Long, Youth Events Leader ~ liz@stgregorynb.org
 Vince Hendren, Mission Trip ~ vince@stgregorynb.org

FAITH FORMATION

CLASS & EVENT SCHEDULE:

February 22, 11:30am - Sunday School
 February 22, 5:30pm - DOC Class
 February 25, 6:00pm - KIC Class, Gr. 1-5, Parent Small Group
 February 25, 6:00pm - Youth Living Stations practice
 March 1, 11:30am - Sunday School
 March 1 - No DOC Class; Moved to March 22nd.
 March 4, 6:00pm - KIC Class, Gr. 1-8; Living Stations practice
 March 11 - No KIC Classes due to Spring Break

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Congratulations to the 13 Second Graders from St. Gregory's & Sacred Heart who made their First Reconciliation on Saturday, February 7th! May God bless you all!

PARENT SMALL GROUP

The next Parent Small Group will meet again on Wednesday, February 25th from 6-7:30pm. This is a requirement for 2nd grade parents of those making their First Holy Communion in May, but other parents are always welcome to join us!

Please note that there will NOT be a Parent Small Group meeting in March due to the All Family Lenten Event w/Livings Stations presentation on March 25th.

DOC - CHECK YOUR EMAIL

Change to the 2nd year Confirmation Retreat - Please check your email or contact Danielle if you have not received the Flocknote.

YOUTH LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Living Stations are back again this year! Practice will now be held on Wednesday nights/KIC nights starting February 25th! If you are interested in participating, please contact Liz Long.

MARCH BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

We will be celebrating the March Baptism Anniversaries on March 4th. Parents! If you have not let the FF office know your child's Baptism anniversary, please do so.

WOMEN'S EVENTS

MARY & MARTHA WOMEN'S GROUP

Our next meeting is set for Thursday, March 19, at our new time of 5:30pm. All women of the parish are welcome at our meetings in the Parish Hall.



The M&M group will be hosting a guest speaker June 4, Alyssa Bormes. Watch for more information coming soon.



Our annual Easter Basket Sale will be the weekend of Palm Sunday, March 28 & 29, after both Masses. Put your creative thinking caps on to create themed baskets for this M&M fundraiser. Let's see your fun ideas! We accept baskets geared towards any age.

Please price your baskets and bring them to the Parish Office by Thursday, March 27.



INCENSE USE AT MASS

Fr. Matt plans to use incense at St. Gregory's Mass on March 8, April 2, and April 4.



Almighty God, we lift up all those who are ill in body, spirit, or mind. We ask you to bring healing, comfort, and peace to them. Calm their fears and help them experience the healing power of Your love. Amen

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR:

Roger, Steve, and Pat Dusbabek, Austin & Jen DeMars, Dan Forschler, Raymond Kelly, Vivian Kreitz, Stephen Lauinger, Tom Mellgren, Marcia O'Brien, Dan Salzbrun

Call the Parish Office to have yourself or loved one added to this prayer list for up to 3 months at a time, or to be added to the Prayer Chain.

Note: As we restructure the bulletin and seek the best format, the St. Gregory Calendar section is changing. The Daily Mass and Reconciliation schedules will only be listed here if it is different from a typical week. Classes that require registration will be listed in their respective boxes in other areas of the bulletin.

Tuesday, February 24

7:00 pm NA Meeting.....Classrooms

Wednesday, February 25

9:00 am Women's Book Club.....Classroom

6:00 pm Youth Living Stations Practice.....Church

Thursday, February 26

9:00 am Eucharistic Adoration until 9pm.....Church

1:00 pm Prayer Shawl Meeting.....Off-Site

7:00 pm Women's Book Club.....Classroom

Friday, February 27

9:15 am Bible Study.....Cry Room

Saturday, February 28

9:30 am OCIA Class.....Parish Hall

4:00 pm Reconciliation.....Confessional

4:30 pm Rosary.....Church

5:00 pm Mass.....Church

Sunday, March 1

10:00 am Rosary.....Church

10:30 am Mass.....Church

11:30 am Sunday Hospitality.....Parish Hall

6:00 pm High School Youth Group.....Romero House

Tuesday, March 3

7:00 pm Parish Council Meeting.....St. Rafka Room

7:00 pm NA Meeting.....Classrooms

Wednesday, March 4

9:00 am Women's Book Club.....Cry Room

6:00 pm Youth Living Stations Practice.....Church

Thursday, March 5

9:00 am Eucharistic Adoration until 9pm.....Church

7:00 pm Women's Book Club.....Classroom

7:00 pm Catholic Watchmen.....Parish Hall

Friday, March 6

9:15 am Bible Study.....Cry Room

6:00 pm Friday Fun Night, Gr. 6-8.....Parish Hall

Saturday, March 7

9:00 am First Saturday Mass.....Sacred Heart

4:00 pm Reconciliation.....Confessional

4:30 pm Rosary.....Church

5:00 pm Mass.....Church

6:00 pm Evening Prayer.....Church

Sunday, March 8 - Daylight Savings Time, Spring Ahead

10:00 am Rosary.....Church

10:30 am Mass.....Church

11:30 am Coffee Sunday.....Parish Hall

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, February 24, 8:30am

†John Mumm

Wednesday, February 25, 5:00pm

The Family of Mary Ruymen-Lee

Thursday, February 26, 8:30am

†Art & †Lucille Mills

Friday, February 27, 8:30am

†Nicholas & †Mikhail Dereschuk

Saturday, February 28, 5:00pm

The People of St. Gregory and Sacred Heart

Sunday, March 1, 10:30am - 2nd Sunday of Lent

†Alicia, †Ignacio, & †Joe Briseno

Tuesday, March 3, 8:30am

†Linda Radeck

Wednesday, March 4, 5:00pm

Kurt & Bridget Weber

Thursday, March 5, 8:30am

†Dylan & †Lucille Dusbabek

Friday, March 6, 8:30am

†Roger Schoenecker

Saturday, March 7, 5:00pm

The People of St. Gregory and Sacred Heart

Sunday, March 8, 10:30am - 3rd Sunday of Lent

†Ken & †Jim Zupon



FEBRUARY 22 & MARCH 1

YOUTH EVENTS

FRIDAY FUN NIGHT

The next Friday Fun Night for grades 3-5 will be March 6, 6:00-9:30pm at St. Gregory's. Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 4.

EXTREME FAITH CAMP 2026

We are looking forward to our second summer camp at the Trinity Woods Center in Trego, WI. There are opportunities for both middle schoolers (current 5th-8th grade) and high schoolers (current 9th-12th grade) to attend this faith-filled, interactive, outdoor adventure. Our group is in high need of male and female chaperones! Our week of camp is also in high need of a fisherman and nurses.

TOTUS TUUS 2026

The Totus Tuus summer youth program will return next Summer! Mark your calendars for June 14-19. More information available at a later date.

CRS RICE BOWLS

The Catholic Relief Services rice bowls are available now in the narthex of St. Gregory's. Please return your bowls with contributions by Sunday, April 12. You may give your bowl to an usher or drop it off at the parish office during the week.

SATURDAY HOSPITALITY AT ST. GREGORY:



We are still seeking more hosts for hospitality at St. Gregory's after the 5:00pm Mass on 2nd Saturdays. Several months are still available, including March 14. Please contact Joleen Pierce, Mary Determan, or the Parish Office to sign up or for more information.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY AT ST. GREGORY:

We have blessed prayer shawls available for anyone, parishioner or family/friend who is in need of extra comfort as they face health struggles or healing. Shawls may be found in the cabinet near the St. Gregory church library, or by contacting the Parish Office.

The knitters of the Prayer Shawl Group at St. Gregory meet 1:00-3:00pm on the last Thursday of every month to craft beautiful shawls, which Fr. Matt blesses. Please contact St. Gregory's Parish Office if you would like to join this creative ministry.

LENTEN ALMSGIVING PROJECT AT ST. GREGORY:

Join us in our Lent almsgiving project to raise \$6,000 for Fr. Andy Phiri's home parish, St. Stephen the Proto Martyr Parish in Chipata Diocese of Zambia. The funds will go towards a much-needed new roof for one of the parish churches. At this time, the church has no roof at all! We can ensure a safe and welcoming space for Fr. Andy's community to gather and worship. Donations may be placed in the wooden box in the narthex, the collection basket, or delivered to the Parish Office. Make checks payable to St. Gregory the Great and note "Roof Project" in the memo line.



ST. GREGORY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Weekly Goal \$5,908.65

Offering for 01/25 Week 31	\$3,523.05
Offering for 02/01 Week 32	\$5,721.61
YTD Weekly Goal	YTD Actual Offering
\$189,076.80	\$177,399.58

MASS ATTENDANCE

Date	5:00pm	10:30am
January 24/25 Week 31	110	158
Jan. 31/Feb. 1 Week 32	139	140

NEWS FOR ALL

BIBLE STUDY

Join Fr. Matt for bible study every Friday at 9:15am in the Cry Room of St. Gregory's, North Branch.

BAPTISM PREP CLASS:

Parents seeking Baptism for their child are required to attend a single Baptism class, which we offer on the second Thursday of each month at St. Gregory's Parish Hall, 6:30-7:30pm. The next class is March 12. Call St. Gregory's Parish Office to sign up.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

All high school youth of St. Gregory's and Sacred Heart are invited to the next gathering on Sunday, March 1, 6:00-7:30pm at the Romero House (6385 Maple St, North Branch). Signed permission slips are required by all youth who attend. Friends are welcome to attend also.

ARCHDIOCESAN MEN'S CONFERENCE:

Fr. Matt and members of the Catholic Watchmen group will be attending the 2026 Archdiocesan Men's Conference (including Mass with Archbishop Hebda) at Fr. Matt's former parish of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Hastings on Saturday, March 21. Pre-registration is required, so reach out to Fr. Matt (fathermatt@stgregorynb.org) if interested. Participants can leave from St. Gregory's at 6:30am and return around 1:30pm.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LENT DINNER & BINGO:

Mark your calendars for Friday, March 27 for the annual Fish Sandwich dinner and Ham BINGO sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Dinner starts around 5:30pm (following Youth Stations of the Cross performance) with BINGO at 7:00pm. (St. Gregory's Parish Hall, 38725 Forest Blvd, North Branch)

SMALL GROUP SEEKING NEW MEMBERS:

Come join our small group at St. Gregory's, The Holy Face of Jesus, on the second and fourth Thursday evenings of February and March, as we journey together exploring the 5 senses of Jesus throughout His most powerful Passion. We will recite The Holy Face of Jesus Chaplet, pondering His experience of Touch, Hearing, Sight, Smell and Taste. Chaplet materials will be provided. Please contact June Cierzan, Shannon Geier, or the Parish Office for more information or to sign up.

COMMUNITY LENTEN MEALS

TRINITY LUTHERAN FISH FRY:

(38460 Lincoln Trail, North Branch) Six Fridays of Lent, February 20 through March 27, 5:00-7:00pm. Fish Fry or meatless spaghetti dinner. \$15 for adults, \$5 for kids age 5-10. Proceeds support Viking Vittles weekend backpack food program.

ST. JOHN'S MEN'S CLUB FISH FRY:

(14383 Forest Blvd N, Hugo) Sponsored by the Men's Club of St. Genevieve. Fish Fry dinner on Fridays in Lent, February 20 through March 27, 5:00-7:00pm. Adults \$15, Seniors (60 and older) \$12, kids (6-12 yrs) \$10. Youths 6-12 years old may enter a drawing for a bike. One girl and one boy winner will be announced March 27, 7:45pm. Need not be present to win.

FORMED.ORG VIDEO OF THE WEEK:

"Foretold" - From the beginning, God had a plan to save man from sin. With Jesus, that plan was fulfilled. But he also has a specific plan for you. Watch "Foretold" to rediscover God's providential love for you. <https://app.formed.org/app/videos/3492238/>

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