

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 ~ 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**
Bookkeeper: 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

March 8th, 2026 3rd Sunday of Lent ~ March 15th, 2026 4th Sunday of Lent

OLYMPIC PERSPECTIVE FOR LENT

You probably know that I enjoy following a lot of sports, especially those events that come up every 4 years like the Olympics or World Cup (which is this summer). Although I will watch whatever Olympic sport is on NBC, my favorites to follow are the biathlon (cross country skiing with shooting at a target) and Nordic combined (ski jump followed by a cross country ski race). Of course, the USA hockey teams sweeping the Gold Medals (the men for the first time in my lifetime!) were great moments of the 2026 Olympics.

One of the events that may have skipped your eyes was the 50-kilometer men's cross country ski race. By the time NBC was showing the live race, the team of 3 Norwegians were about 2 minutes ahead of the rest of the field. I found myself praising God for the display of the athletic excellence that that team was showing—helping each other to operate as the best of the world (sweeping the medals in the process) and each of them hoping to win a gold medal (Klaebo won his record-setting 6th gold medal in that race). Sometimes during the Olympics you get insights into all of the time that they have spent preparing for the big stage.

One of the main purposes of Lent going back to the early Church has been to provide the immediate preparation for neophytes to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter. Although the Easter Vigil is “the big stage,” the preparation for that moment has taken place in the days, weeks, years, and even decades leading up to that day. Our elect (those who are preparing to be baptized) and candidates for full communion into the Church have been studying the faith with our team of mentors and discussed faith with their sponsors. After the homily during the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays, the elect go through a series of scrutinies (in addition, they officially receive the Creed during this time). The purposes of these scrutinies for the elect are to be given a greater spirit of repentance and for the parish community to intentionally pray for them.

As we race closer and closer to the finish line that is Easter (or Heaven, if we are thinking along those lines), I ask for all of you to pray for and encourage our elect and candidates (including our youth preparing for Confirmation). Come, Holy Spirit, come!

~ Fr. Matt

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 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)

SACRED HEART LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS:

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 27.**

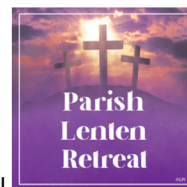
These gatherings offer a meaningful opportunity for fellowship and reflection as a community before we enter the holiest days of our faith. No cost; Freewill offerings accepted.

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:

The initiative for March is

“Elevated Conversations and Prayer.”

The power of conversation in a family cannot be overstated. The act of listening with the ear of the heart and responding out of love to what was heard is the bedrock of trust in the family. Taking time to engage in this kind of conversation can often get pushed aside for the urgent needs that take priority in working to manage frantic family life.

The first activity for this month is something that a married couples group that Fr. Matt as chaplain for (Teams of Our Lady) does each month—sharing of your highs and lows in the past week (or month, as the case may be). Such an open sharing allows friends and even family members to learn more about their loved one's world; this is why time is given for a similar type of sharing in parish small groups. Allow them to share freely without interrupting. You can follow up with questions or comments when they are done.



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 March 19th, 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 your parish office. Sacred Heart and St. Gregory both have volunteers for this homebound ministry.

Sacred Heart Almsgiving Project

This Lent, Sacred Heart parishioners are invited to help the Diocese of Mamfe, located in western Cameroon near Nigeria, prepare classrooms for children whose families struggle simply to afford education. Years ago, Bishop Aloysius visited our parish as a young priest and shared the hardships facing families in Mamfe. Today, he is leading the renovation of its school serving preschool through high school students — including the very poorest children.

To open its school, they need desks, chairs, chalkboards, and basic supplies. Our desire is to furnish as much of two classrooms as possible (about \$4,000 each). Every dollar given will be matched up to \$10,000 — doubling the impact of every gift.

To donate, please make checks payable to Sacred Heart and place them in an envelope addressed to "Mamfe". You may drop your gift in the weekly offering basket.

Mass Intentions

Wednesday, March 11

9:00 am †Brian Erickson

Sunday, March 15

8:30 am †Fr. Ralph Haur

Wednesday, March 18th

9:00 am †Tom, Terry & Tim Solorz

Sunday, March 22nd

8:30 am †Mark & Michelle Stenger



Financial Update	Budget	Actual
February 2026	\$10,020	\$8642.30

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:

March 11 - No KIC Classes due to Spring Break
 March 18, 6:00pm - KIC Class, grades 1-5
 March 22, 11:30am - Sunday School
 March 22, 5:30pm - DOC Class
 March 25, 6:00pm - KIC Family Lenten Event with Living Stations performance

NO CLASSES - SPRING BREAK

There will NOT be any KIC classes on Wednesday, March 11 due to Spring Break, but there WILL be Living Stations practice that night. Have a safe, fun week off!



CHILDREN'S CHOIR - MARCH 15

The Children's Choir will be singing at the 10:30am Mass on March 15. Children who wish to participate should meet at the choir area by 10:15am.

PARENT SMALL GROUP

Please note that there will NOT be a Parent Small Group meeting in March due to the All Family Lenten Event with Living Stations presentation on March 25th. More information will be sent to KIC families soon.

ARCHDIOCESAN HISTORY BOOKS

We are now offering the Archdiocesan 175th Anniversary Books at a new lower price. Add one or both to your home library for just \$30 for the 500-page history book or \$10 for the graphic novel. Contact the Parish Office for your copy (651-674-4056).



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.



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 Friday, March 27.

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



INCENSE USE AT MASS

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

Prayer REQUESTS

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, March 10

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

Wednesday, March 11

9:00 am Women's Book Club.....Classroom
 6:00 pm Youth Living Stations Practice.....Church

Thursday, March 12

9:00 am Eucharistic Adoration until 9pm.....Church
 6:00 pm Women's Book Club.....Classroom
 6:30 pm Baptism Prep Class.....Parish Hall

Friday, March 13

9:15 am Bible Study.....Cry Room
 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross.....Church

Saturday, March 14

9:30 am OCIA Class.....Parish Hall
 4:00 pm Reconciliation.....Confessional
 4:30 pm Rosary.....Church
 5:00 pm Mass & Scrutiny.....Church
 6:00 pm Saturday Hospitality.....Parish Hall

Sunday, March 15

10:00 am Rosary.....Church
 10:30 am Mass, Children's Choir.....Church
 11:30 am Sunday Hospitality.....Parish Hall

Tuesday, March 17

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

Wednesday, March 18

9:00 am Women's Book Club.....Cry Room
 6:00 pm Youth Living Stations Practice.....Church

Thursday, March 19

9:00 am Eucharistic Adoration until 9pm.....Church
 5:30 pm Mary & Martha group meeting.....Parish Hall
 6:00 pm Women's Book Club.....Classroom
 7:00 pm Knights of Columbus meeting.....Parish Hall

Friday, March 20

9:15 am Bible Study.....Cry Room
 6:30 pm Reconciliation.....Church
 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross.....Church

Saturday, March 21

4:00 pm Reconciliation.....Confessional
 4:30 pm Rosary.....Church
 5:00 pm Mass & Scrutiny.....Church

Sunday, March 22

10:00 am Rosary.....Church
 10:30 am Mass.....Church
 11:30 am Sunday Hospitality.....Parish Hall

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, March 10, 8:30am

†Marie Cardinal

Wednesday, March 11, 5:00pm

Steve Marquart

Thursday, March 12, 8:30am

†Kris Olsson

Friday, March 13, 8:30am

Ben & Emilie Olund

Saturday, March 14, 5:00pm

The People of St. Gregory and Sacred Heart

Sunday, March 15, 10:30am - 4th Sunday of Lent

†Sally Pierce

Tuesday, March 17, 8:30am

†Michael Probasco

Wednesday, March 18, 5:00pm

†Marguerite Rustand

Thursday, March 19, 8:30am

Will Klobe

Friday, March 20, 8:30am

†Julie Darrington

Saturday, March 21, 5:00pm

The People of St. Gregory and Sacred Heart

Sunday, March 22, 10:30am - 5th Sunday of Lent

†James & †Jane Dillon



MARCH 8 & MARCH 15

YOUTH EVENTS

Vince Hendren vince@stgregorynb.org
Liz Long: liz@stgregorynb.org or call St. Gregory's Parish Office (651-674-4056) for their phone numbers.

MISSION TRIP - June 21-27

There is still time to join the Youth Mission Trip to attend the Catholic Heart Workcamp in Champaign, IL. The trip is open to high schoolers (entering 9th grade in Fall and up). The next meeting for interested families is May 3 after Mass. Contact: Vince Hendren

EXTREME FAITH CAMP 2026 - Early July

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. Dates are July 11-17 for High School youth and July 13-17 for Middle School youth. Contact: Liz Long

TOTUS TUUS 2026 - June 14-19

The Totus Tuus summer youth program will return this Summer! Mark your calendars as this fun-filled week returns with a daytime program for grades 1-6 and an evening program for grades 7-12. More information coming soon. Contact: Liz Long

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.

SATURDAY HOSPITALITY AT ST. GREGORY:



The next Saturday Hospitality is March 14. 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. Please contact Joleen Pierce, Mary Determan, or the Parish Office for more information.

FORMED.ORG VIDEO OF THE WEEK:

Can Almsgiving Atone for Sin?

formed

This Bible study will focus on the biblical teaching about the merit God associates with almsgiving, from the OT to the NT. We will also touch on how Luther's Reformation changed the Christian tradition and how that relates to Scripture.

<https://app.formed.org/app/videos/793186?cid=116302>

ST. GREGORY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Weekly Goal \$5,908.65

Offering for 02/08 | Week 33 **\$5,593.10**

Offering for 02/15 | Week 34 **\$4,472.26**

YTD Weekly Goal

\$200,894.10

YTD Actual Offering

\$187,464.94

MASS ATTENDANCE

Date	5:00pm	10:30am
February 07/08 Week 33	103	162
February 14/15 Week 34	100	156

MARCH 8 & 15

NEWS FOR ALL

Fr. Matt Shireman: fathermatt@stgregorynb.org

WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS may be found online at:
<https://bible.usccb.org/readings/calendar>

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. Call St. Gregory's Parish Office to sign up for the next class on March 12.



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 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 in St. Gregory's Parish Hall sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.



5:30pm - Fish Sandwiches (\$6.00 for sandwich, drink and chips)

7:00pm - BINGO & Raffle (prizes include cash or a bone-in half ham) Bingo is \$0.50 per card or 3/\$1.

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.



COMMUNITY LENTEN MEALS

TRINITY LUTHERAN FISH FRY:

(38460 Lincoln Trail, North Branch) Fridays of Lent 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, 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.