

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**
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

May 3rd, 2026 5th Sunday of Easter ~ May 10th, 2026 6th Sunday of Easter

EUCHARIST AS FOOD FOR HEAVEN



This weekend we had many of our young people celebrate their First Eucharist; others will receive at St. Gregory's 10:30am Mass on May 17th. I extend heart-felt congratulations to all of the young people who received Jesus' Body and Blood for the first time. All of us—I as the pastor, assisting clergy, parents, godparents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, other family members, and parishioners—are called to help these young people to continue their journey of faith in Jesus and His Catholic Church.

One of the main Old Testament prefigurements of the Eucharist is the miraculous manna that appeared daily in the wilderness for Israel's 40-year journey (see the Book of Exodus). The Israelites were given specific instructions on collecting the manna. They were only to collect one day's worth; if they left anything for the next day, it would be worm-infested. The other command given by God was that on Friday, the day before the Sabbath, the Israelites would collect 2 days worth of manna. That second day of manna would not corrupt, but there would also not be any manna to gather on the Sabbath (Saturday). These manna provisions were ultimately given by God to help the Israelites to grow in their trust of God and recognize that God was with them throughout their wilderness sojourn.

The Eucharist is Jesus' fulfillment of the manna. The Eucharist is food from Heaven. It feeds the souls of Christians (especially on Sundays—the new Day of the Lord) as they journey towards Heaven. Regular reception of the Eucharist at Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation helps us to grow in trust of God as He feeds us with His very self. Through eating the Eucharist, we receive many spiritual graces or 'vitamins': faith, hope, charity, and removal of lesser/venial sins.

When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, he gave them the Lord's Prayer (a.k.a. "Our Father"). One of the invocations is "Give us this day our daily bread." This is related to the Old Testament manna, but it goes beyond that. The word daily is better translated as "super-substantial." This means a bread that is more than just ordinary bread, thus an extraordinary bread. This is the Eucharist. God changes ordinary bread (and wine) into the Body and Blood of Jesus at every Mass.

My fellow pilgrims, may we receive all of the benefits that God wishes to bestow upon us through the Eucharist—spiritual manna.

~ Fr. Matt

HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS



CATHOLIC WATCHMEN:

The next gathering of the Catholic Watchmen is Thursday, May 7 at 7:00pm in St. Gregory's Parish Hall. All men are welcome to join. This will be the final scheduled gathering until September.

RITE OF SENDING FOR CONFIRMANDS:

The Rite of Sending for our Year 2 Confirmands will take place at Sacred Heart Church at Mass on Sunday, May 17 at 8:30am. Please pray for the Confirmands of Sacred Heart and St. Gregory as they prepare for Confirmation which will take place on Sunday, June 14 at the Cathedral of Saint Paul.



EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: Spend time with Jesus.

We are seeking people to be regular scheduled adorers at either Sacred Heart on Wednesdays (9:30am to Noon) or on Thursdays at St. Gregory (9:00am to 9:00pm). Particularly, we need at least one more person for the hours of Noon and 4:00pm at St. Gregory. Contact the respective Parish Offices to sign up.

Wondering what to do in Adoration? Check out this video from Bishop Robert Barron:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3snpp3VrYvE>



GUEST SPEAKER

Thursday, June 4
5:30-7:30pm

"Mary and Martha - Woundedness to Hope"

**This event is open to both parishes and the Catholic women of your family or circle of friends.*

All women are invited to a special speaker event on Thursday, June 4, in St. Gregory's Parish Hall.

Alyssa Bormes, Catholic educator, author and speaker, will use humor, analogy, and an innate gift of storytelling to help ignite in her audiences a new-found sense of wonder in the Church. Her passion is to inspire others to take on greater personal responsibility for their faith and to grow in spiritual maturity.

There is no cost but RSVP's are appreciated by Wednesday, May 27 to St. Gregory's Parish Office. Doors will open at 5:30pm. Presentation will be 6:00-7:00pm. Light snacks and refreshments will be served. Alyssa will bring books available for purchase following the presentation.

Sponsored by the Mary & Martha Group of St. Gregory's. (651-674-4056, donna@stgregorynb.org)

RECLAIMING SUNDAYS: The initiative for May is Community and Prayer

The Reclaiming Sundays theme for May is "Community and Prayer." God calls us to love everyone He has put into our lives, including our neighbors. To that end, do a prayer walk with your household for your community—walk together around your neighborhood, praying for those in each house you pass. Pray also for those who serve your neighborhood, including police, firefighters, local government, school officials, etc.



You may know that Fr. Matt's background is in urban transportation, which also overlaps with city design. Pope Francis links city design with evangelization in his 2013 apostolic exhortation "The Joy of the Gospel" (Evangelii Gaudium): "Houses and neighborhoods are more often built to isolate and protect than to connect and integrate. The proclamation of the Gospel will be a basis for restoring the dignity of human life." One question that follows from this—How can we be a witness of God's love to our neighbors given our limitations in our community?

SACRED HEART



Congratulations!

*Regan Bigelow
Esther Opitz
Harlan Opitz
Kaiden Overton
Taylor Telander*



Congratulations on your First Holy Communion! May you always know the peace of Jesus, the light of His love, and the joy of His life within you.

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, Steve Lauinger

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.

Mass Intentions

Wednesday, May 6th

9:00 am †Brian Erickson

Sunday, May 10th

8:30 am †Nick & Carol Cimenski

Wednesday, May 13th

9:00 am †Evelyn Prickett

Sunday, May 17th

8:30 am †Amy Prickett



The parish survey has closed for **Sacred Heart**. A special thanks to the 26 individuals who participated. Fr. Matt and the leaders will be analyzing the input received and reporting back to the parish soon.

SACRED HEART FAITH FORMATION:

Tina Heidelberger ~ 763-670-8594,
tina.joeheidelberger@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 at 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 in Wey Hall at 6:30 pm. The next one will be on May 21, 2026.



Summer Opportunities for Youth

All of the youth events listed in the St. Gregory section—Totus Tuus (Vacation Bible School), Extreme Faith Camp, and Mission Trip—are open to all youth at Sacred Heart. Sacred Heart will provide scholarships to any youth who are interested. Please contact the Sacred Heart office or the Faith Formation office at St. Gregory's for more information. ***Please contact the Church office ASAP if your child would like to participate in the Youth Summer activities!***

Church is open during office hours

You may have noticed the camera at the door by the ramp. This makes it possible to safely open up the church during office hours (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8:30 to 12:30pm). Please consider visiting Jesus in the Church on one (or all) of these days.

Financial Update	Budget	Actual
March 2026	\$10,020	\$8,270

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:

May 3, 10:30am - First Communion group 1 at St. Gregory
 May 6, 6:00pm - KIC End of the year party
 May 10, 5:30pm - DOC Last class
 May 17, 8:30am - DOC Rite of Sending at Sacred Heart
 May 17, 10:30am - First Communion group 2 at St. Gregory

FAITH FORMATION END-OF-THE-YEAR PARTY:

The annual Faith Formation End-of-the-Year Party will be held on Wednesday, May 6th at 6:00pm. This year, since it is so close to Cinco de Mayo, we will be having a Mexican-themed evening instead. We will have a taco/nacho bar with all of the fixin's, PLUS a pinata for 3 different age groups to take a whack at! Don't miss it! Ole!



TOTUS TUUS SUMMER PROGRAM

We hope to see all the kids back in June for this fun Summer program. The daytime program for those entering grades 1-5 will run June 15-19 from 8:00am to 1:30pm. See Page 5 for more details. Registration forms are available now.

A special thank you goes out to all of our Faith Formation Disciplers & volunteers. Thanks to you, we had a fantastic year! May God bless you for your commitment and kindness!



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:

Jen DeMars, Roger, Steve, and Pat Dusbabek, Stephen Lauinger, Glen Magnuson, 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.



†Florence Daninger
 Mother of Cathy Kaißer



May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

ST. GREGORY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Weekly Goal \$5,908.65

Offering for 04/05 | Week 41 \$8,739.25

Offering for 04/12 | Week 42 **\$3,887.00**

YTD Weekly Goal

YTD Actual Offering

\$248,163.30

\$234,510.13

MASS ATTENDANCE

April 2, Holy Thursday, 7:30pm 98

April 3, Good Friday service, 7:30pm 96

April 3, Easter Vigil, 8:30pm 120

April 4, Easter Sunday, 10:30am 290

Date

5:00pm

10:30am

April 11/12 | Week 42

5:00pm = 128

10:30am = 160

CALENDAR

Note: The Daily Liturgy schedule will be Word & Communion services while Fr. Matt is out of town May 11-15. Classes that require registration will be listed in their respective boxes in other areas of the bulletin.

Tuesday, May 5

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

Thursday, May 7

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

Friday, May 8

9:15 am Bible Study.....Cry Room
 5:30 pm Homeschool Presentation Night....Parish Hall

Saturday, May 9

4:00 pm Reconciliation.....Confessional
 4:30 pm Rosary.....Church
 5:00 pm Mass.....Church
 6:00 pm Saturday Hospitality.....Parish Hall

Sunday, May 10 - Mother's Day

10:00 am Rosary.....Church
 10:30 am Mass.....Church
 11:30 am Garces Family Baptism.....Church
 11:30 am Coffee Sunday.....Parish Hall

Tuesday, May 12

8:30 am Word & Communion service.....Church
 7:00 pm NA Meeting.....Classrooms

Wednesday, May 13

5:00 pm Word & Communion service.....Church
 6:00 pm KIC Discipuler meeting.....Parish Hall

Thursday, May 14

8:30 am Word & Communion service.....Church
 9:00 am Eucharistic Adoration until 9:00pm.....Church
 6:30 pm Baptism Prep Class.....Parish Hall

Friday, May 15

8:30 am Word & Communion service.....Church

Saturday, May 16

10:00 am Stations of Resurrection videos....Parish Hall
 4:00 pm Reconciliation.....Confessional
 4:30 pm Rosary.....Church
 5:00 pm Mass.....Church

Sunday, May 17

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

Happy Mother's Day!

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, May 5, 8:30am

†Thomas O'Meara

Wednesday, May 6, 5:00pm

†Marie Cardinal

Thursday, May 7, 8:30am

†Dylan & †Lucille Dusbabek

Friday, May 8, 8:30am

†Theresa Chesney

Saturday, May 9, 5:00pm

The People of St. Gregory and Sacred Heart

Sunday, May 10, 10:30am - 4th Sunday of Easter

†Ken & †Jim Zupon

May 11-15

Word and Communion Services; No Mass Intentions

Saturday, May 16, 5:00pm

The People of St. Gregory and Sacred Heart

Sunday, May 17, 10:30am - 3rd Sunday of Easter

Jacob O'Meara



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.

TOTUS TUUS 2026 - June 14-19, for Grades 1-12

Registration forms are available now for this exciting summer youth program. The daytime program for those entering grades 1-5 will run June 15-19 from 8:00am to 1:30pm. The evening program for those entering grades 6-12 will be June 14-18 from 5:30pm to 8:15pm.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are looking for individuals to provide meals for both programs and help with snacks and supervision during the daytime program. Contact: Liz Long

YOUTH DISCERNMENT RETREAT - July 28-30

Trying to figure out God's plan for your life? St. Mary's in Milaca is hosting a Discernment Retreat, giving youth the opportunity to learn how to discern single life, married life, religious life or the priesthood. There will be talks, prayer, adoration, Confession, games and food. The cost is \$50.00 for kids entering 7th grade and up. Kids entering grades 4-6 are invited up for the afternoon on July 30th; cost: \$15.00. Registration is due by June 15. To find out more info and to register, please visit <https://www.fourpillarsinfaith.org> and click on Discernment Retreat.



The 2nd grade youth of Sacred Heart and St. Gregory will be making their first Holy Communion on May 3rd and May 17th. We invite you to keep them and their families in your prayers as they reach this special milestone in their faith journey!

Congratulations to these First Communicants of St. Gregory the Great:

*Camille Splettstoesz
Finn Miller
Jedidiah Malchow
Johnathon Swager
Lacey Hale
Laila Pawelski
Penelope Cundiff
Roisin Groschen
Ruby Lorge
Shane Fenderbosch
Skylar Moos*

HOMESCHOOL PRESENTATION NIGHT - Friday, May 8

Our Lady Seat of Wisdom, the homeschool co-op which holds classes at St. Gregory's, is hosting their year-end Presentation Night in the Parish Hall on Friday, May 8, 5:30-7:30pm. The evening will showcase student projects and a short play. This event is open to all members of the parish who wish to help celebrate OLSW students.



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 on Fridays at 9:15am in the Cry Room (or the gazebo as the weather warms) of St. Gregory's, North Branch. Please note - There will be no Bible Study on Friday, May 15.

STATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION

Two more sessions remain to explore the 14 Stations of the Resurrection along with Father Matt. The video series will be shown in St. Gregory's Parish Hall 10:00-11:00am on May 16, and May 23. No need to register or RSVP. All are welcome to join.



St. Joseph's Cemetery Spring Clean-up Friday, May 8 at 4:00pm Helpers wanted

Spring clean-up at the cemetery is to remove the faded decorations and crumbling wreaths, and to restore fresh Spring beauty before Memorial Day. All volunteers are welcome to join members of the Cemetery Committee for 1 to 2 hours of light-moderate work. Please bring your own gloves, and rakes. Many hands make light work.

MARY & MARTHA WOMEN'S GROUP



ANNUAL BABY SHOWER - May 1 - 31

Every May, the M&M group hosts a baby shower to benefit Options for Women of Chisago County. We are accepting donations now through May 31. New and gently used items may be placed in the donation bin in St. Gregory's narthex. Monetary donations may be dropped off at the parish office - please make checks payable to Options for Women.

MOST NEEDED ITEMS:



Diaper wipes	Teethers
Diapers - Sz 6	Pacifiers
Nursing pads	Breast pumps
BUBS formula	Boppy pillows
Burp cloths	Outlet plugs
New or gently used bottles	
New or gently used clothing - newborn to 5T	

NEXT MEETING: All women are welcome to join the next meeting on Thursday, May 21, at 5:30pm in St. Gregory's Parish Hall.

FORMED.ORG VIDEO OF THE WEEK:

The Boy From Milan: Stories of Carlo Acutis
Discover the inspiring story of Carlo Acutis, the young boy from Milan. You may have heard of him, the sneaker-wearing, computer-loving "gamer saint" of our time. But beyond the headlines and hashtags, the real story of Carlo is something deeper, something the world desperately needs to hear. Known for his deep love of God, devotion to the Eucharist, and quiet acts of charity, Carlo's life was a testament to everyday holiness.

<https://app.formed.org/app/videos/3583599/>

