



Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World by Knowing, Loving and Serving God.

THE GIFT OF AN OPEN DOOR



When we made the decision at St. Gregory's to close down our preschool, I was hesitant about what our day-to-day operations would look like.

Our facilities were constantly utilized, and we had a steady stream of folks coming and going – from parents picking up and dropping off, to our third-party enrichment providers, to the various friends and family who would show up for programs and special events. I knew we were losing the most public-facing aspect of our ministry.

But it also provided a great opportunity. Without the daily operation of a preschool, we were free to use our facilities for our own ministries and other various purposes. We can now host our own ministries – for instance our ladies group, who I can hear as I am writing these very words. We had a children's art camp who came to us last year and just met again last week and will have another week later this summer. We also have several other groups who utilize our space – Pet Partners, a bridge group, a PEO, and others who meet at St. Gregory's on a regular basis. I am always very ready to open our doors for any group or organization with even the smallest connection to our parish. In my opinion, this has been one of the most rewarding practices in regard to our building usage.

There is something powerful in familiarity. I once saw an interview with a restaurateur who was explaining strategies for customer retention and how the first two visits are crucial in the industry because once someone has dined at a restaurant 3 times, the likelihood of them becoming a regular skyrockets. We are creatures of habit, we like being able to predict our environment and experiences. Will most of the individuals who come to St. Gregory's for an event by an outside entity return for worship? No. Could one person who has been thinking about coming back to church or curious about the Christian faith be comfortable enough to show up on a Sunday, having already been through the doors or having met myself or another parishioner? Absolutely! This is why it is so important that we be welcoming and hospitable to these groups and generous with our resources.

So, if you ever find yourself in need of meeting place, please think of St. Gregory's. As long as the space is available, we are happy to host almost any organization – free of charge! Any opportunity to familiarize someone with our building or introduce them to our people is a potential inroad into the life of the Church.

Fr. Alan Horton+



FAITH

Faith is the belief that something not confirmed or backed by logic will become reality. No; faith is much more: Faith is the conviction that whatever you hope and pray for HAS ALREADY BEEN GRANTED.



Submitted by
Heinz Liedke

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us – whatever we ask – we know that we have what we ask of him. 1 John 5:14-15

Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father."

Since Faith can not be logically proven it can be assumed that Faith is entirely spiritual. It is important to keep that in mind. When one tries to explain or prove Faith through worldly means, one becomes instantly aware that by worldly means Faith cannot be explained.

"Lord if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" Matthew 14:28-31

This is proof that believing in the power of worldly things, in this instance wind, distracts from faith and causes doubt. Once this happens we no longer operate in spirit but in the world. We must remember that the world is the domain of the devil (the master of lies) and it is in his interest that we have little or no faith.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, his good pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2

It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak. 2 Corinthians 4:13

Jesus said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." Mark 16:15

July Birthdays

13~Sammie Clark

13~Asa Horton

18~James Musick

22~Bert Sloan

24~Letani Robin-Ngbor

25~Emma Horton



July Events

05~Pot Luck –Send off for

Fr. Horton to Malawi

16~9:00am Dominoes/Donuts

18~8:00am Men's Group

@Rosa's

20~Fr. Horton Back Home

26~9:00 am Youth Sunday

Food Drive-Peanut Butter &
Jelly

*Note: Ladies Tuesday Group will
take a break and resume on
Tuesday, August 4th.*



We are beginning our "Christmas in July" campaign for the Samaritan's Purse-Operation Christmas Child boxes. The boxes will be filled with your items and packed to ship out in November.

Hopefully, as things slow down this summer and many clearance sales are in progress, you may have a chance to pick up some items for the Children's Christmas boxes. And if you are an online shopper, Amazon has a whole section of Operation Christmas Child-Samaritan's Purse items to purchase without ever leaving your home!

A collection box for donated items and a list of suggested items may be found at the back of the church.

FATHER'S DAY BRUNCH AT ST. GREGORY'S

June 21st brought fathers and families together for a brunch feast as we celebrated Father's Day at St. Gregory's. There was food for all, with many take-away containers going home for enjoyment later in the day. Enough was provided that we even shared lots of breakfast food with the firemen at Mansfield Fire Station #2 down the street.

Thank you to everyone that provided food, helped with cooking and clean up duty.



THE HOLY SEPULCHER EXHIBIT AT THE KIMBELL MUSEUM

On Saturday, June 20, a group from St. Gregory's went to the Kimbell Art Museum in Ft. Worth to tour an exhibit, *The Holy Sepulcher, Treasures from the Terra Sancta Museum of Jerusalem*. The priceless pieces in this collection were created to serve the rituals of the Catholic Church in daily masses. Contribution of these items came from Spain, France, Portugal, Naples, Venice, Genoa and the Holy Roman Empire. The museum has extended this display through Sunday, July 23. Discount tickets are available at: <https://secure.kimbellart.org/30003/30087>



Join Us in Service and Fellowship

Altar Guild

This group maintains the altar for Sunday service, Baptisms, funerals and other special services.

St. Gregory's Choir

The choir is for men and women who like to sing and offer praise to God with their voices.

Daughters of the Holy Cross

This group of women take a lifetime vow of prayer, service, study and evangelism.

Evangelism and Outreach

Planning activities and events, this team shows the love of Jesus in our Mansfield community.

Flower Guild

Learn the art and skill of flower arrangement with fresh flowers for our sanctuary.

Healing Ministry

A group of prayer teams to pray on those seeking healing as directed by Jesus.

Men's Study Group

The men of the church meet on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays for a time of study, service and fellowship.

Women's Study Group

The women of the church meet on Tuesday mornings, enjoying book studies and fellowship.

St. Clara's Guild

This group sews quilts for the sick or to welcome new members at baptism. They also knit caps for newborns in local hospitals and complete other hand done projects for the community.

St. Gregory's Genealogy Group

Explore your family history and heritage with our group. Or learn how to research your family's roots using the knowledge shared by our members.

St. Gregory's Nursery Helpers

This group provides care in our nursery for children under 3 years of age while services are taking place in the sanctuary.

St. Martha's Guild

By providing meals for parishioners and their families during times of illness, bereavement, or even the birth of a child, this group shares God's love.

St. Francis Pet Therapy (Pet Partners)

Through Pet Partners, owners and pets are trained to visit residents of nursing homes and schools, offering God's love through time with a gentle pet. Those without pets may also serve.

St. Gregory's Worship Teams

Our team of Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEM), Lectors, Crucifers and Oblationers (Ushers) make of this group. Special training is provided for those wishing to serve on this team.



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