



# *First Sunday in Lent*

*Sunday, February 22, 2026*

10:15 AM (with music)

*Also Live Streaming at*

<https://www.facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/>

## **VOLUNTARY**

## O Man, Bewail Thy Grievous Fall

J.S. Bach

*During Lent, there is no Processional Hymn. Following the Prelude, chimes will be sounded to signal the beginning of the service. At the chime, please stand for the opening procession.*

*The liturgical ministers then enter in silence.*

## THE GREAT LITANY

Bill Eldon, cantor

*The Officiant at the Litany may be a lay cantor.*

*Officiant*

*People*

O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, Have mer - cy up - on us.

*Officiant*

*People*

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, Have mer - cy up - on us.

*Officiant*

*People*

O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faith - ful, Have mer - cy up - on us.

*Officiant*

*People*

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God, Have mer - cy up - on us.

*Officiant*

Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy

*People*  
preserve us for ev - er. Spare us, good Lord.

*Officiant*

From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the

devil; and from everlast - ing dam - na - tion,

*People*  
Good Lord, de - liv - er us.

*(This same response is sung after the petitions that follow)*

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church Universal in the right way,

*People*  
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

*(This same response is sung after the petitions that follow)*

*Officiant* Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.  
*People* Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

*Officiant*  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mer - cy up - on us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mer - cy up - on us.

*Officiant*  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Grant us thy peace.

*Officiant*  
O Christ, hear us.      *People*  
O Christ, hear us.

## THE PENITENTIAL ORDER

*Presider*      Bless the Lord ☧ who forgives all our sins.  
*People*      **His mercy endures for ever.**

### CONFESSiON AND ABSOLUTION

*The Presider reads the following:*

Jesus said, “The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel:  
The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul,  
with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as  
yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.”                    *Mark 12:29-31*

*The Presider then says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*Presider*      Almighty God have mercy on you, ☧ forgive you all your sins through our Lord  
Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit  
keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

KYRIE

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Presider*      The Lord be with you.  
*People*      **And also with you.**  
*Presider*      Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

## FIRST READING

## Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7

*Lector*      A Reading from Genesis

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and

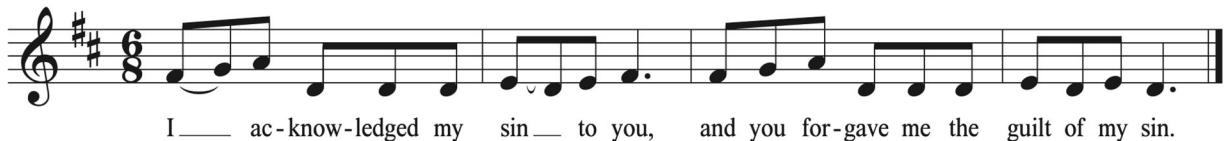
they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

*Lector*      The Word of the Lord.  
*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 32

Setting: David York

*The choir sings the antiphon once and the congregation repeats. The choir sings the Psalm verses. The choir and congregation then sing the antiphon following each section of verses.*



I \_\_\_\_ ac-know-ledged my sin \_\_\_\_ to you, and you for-gave me the guilt of my sin.

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
and whose sin is put away!

Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile! **Antiphon**

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,  
because of my groaning all day long.

For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer. **Antiphon**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."

Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin. **Antiphon**

Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

You are my hiding-place;  
you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance. **Antiphon**

## SECOND READING

Romans 5.12-19

*Lector*      A Reading from the Letter to the Romans

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned-- sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

*Lector*      The Word of the Lord.  
*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand)*

## SEQUENCE HYMN

## Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

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*(Congregation sings vv. 1, 2, & 3, the Gospel is read, then vv. 4 & 5 are sung)*

## HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1-11

*Presider*      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew.  
*People*        **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'  
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.'"

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

*Presider*      The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*      **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*(Please be seated)*

## SERMON

The Rev. Michael K. Fincher

*(Silent reflection)*

## NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,   
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## THE PEACE

*Presider*      The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*      **And also with you.**

*(Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL BLESSINGS

***Birthday and Anniversary Prayer:*** Watch over your *children*, O Lord, as *their* days increase; bless and guide *them* wherever *they* may be. Strengthen *them* when *they* stand; comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *them* up if *they* fall; and in *their* hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Forty Days and Forty Nights

Harrison Oxley

### PRESENTATION HYMN

This Little Light of Mine

Bulletin Page 17

*Verse 1 will be sung by the children of the Sunday School  
All join on the second verse.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Presider* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Presider* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in common time, with a key signature of one flat. The top staff is for the soprano voice, the middle staff for the alto voice, and the bottom staff for the bass voice. The lyrics are written below each staff, corresponding to the musical notes. The music features several sustained notes and rests, with some notes connected by horizontal lines. The lyrics are as follows:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and  
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are  
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na  
 in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na  
 in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*(A period of silence is kept after the Celebrant breaks the host)*

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One  
**Have mercy upon us.**

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One  
**Have mercy upon us.**

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One  
**Grant us your peace.**

## AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God

*Communion Service in F*, Harold Darke

Jordan Tickner, soloist

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Grant us Thy peace.

*The Presider says the following or a similar invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion at this Altar. Holy Communion will be distributed from a single Communion Station at the foot of the chancel steps. The Ushers will release people by row to receive Communion. **Gluten free wafers are available upon request.***

### PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*Those participating in the live streamed service and therefore not able to receive communion may wish to say the following prayer in recognition that the desire to receive communion carries the same spiritual benefits as actually consuming the consecrated elements.*

Lord Jesus Christ, you have instituted for us a great sacrament in your promise of life and love, which we remember now as we hear your words again: "This is my body; this is my blood — given for you." Feed us in our hearts with faith and trust, draw us closer to you and to each other, and strengthen us for service to our neighbor. We come before you now, with hearts you have fed all our lives with the promise that you have given yourself for us. Keep us strong in that faith until we can meet at your table again. Amen.

## COMMUNION MUSIC

Into the Woods

Peter Lutkin, arr. Philip Baker

Jordan Tickner, soloist

Into the woods my Master went, clean forspent.  
Into the woods my Master came, forspent with love and shame.  
But the olives, they were not blind to him; the little gray leaves were kind to him.  
The thorn tree had a mind to him when into the woods he came.  
  
Out of the woods my Master went; he was well content.  
Out of the woods my Master came, content with death and shame.  
When death and shame would woo him last, from under the trees they drew him last.  
'Twas on a tree they slew him last when out of the woods he came.

(Sidney Lanier)

This is the Truth Sent From Above

English Traditional, arr. James Kirby

This is the truth sent from above,  
The truth of God, the God of love:  
Therefore don't turn me from your door,  
But hearken all, both rich and poor.  
  
The first thing which I do relate  
Is that God did man create,  
The next thing which to you I'll tell,  
Woman was made with man to dwell.  
  
Then, after this, 'twas God's own choice  
to place them both in Paradise,  
There to remain, from evil free,  
Except they ate of such a tree.  
  
But they did eat, which was a sin,  
And thus their ruin did begin.  
Ruined themselves, both you and me,  
And all of their posterity.  
  
Thus we were heirs to endless woes,  
Till God the Lord did interpose,  
And so a promise soon did run,  
That he would redeem us by his Son.

(English Traditional)

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*Presider* Let us pray.

**Compassionate God,  
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.  
Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage:  
may our fasting be hunger for justice,  
our alms, a making of peace,  
and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts;  
through Christ our Lord.**  
**Amen.**

## SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

*Presider* Bow down before the Lord.

*The people kneel or bow their heads and the Presider says the following prayer*

Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice for ever in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## RECESSATIONAL HYMN

The Glory of These Forty Days

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## THE DISMISSAL

*Presider* Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## VOLUNTARY

The Glory of These Forty Days

Dietrich Buxtehude

*If you choose to leave during the Postlude, please do so quietly,  
out of courtesy for those staying to listen.*

**Please join us in Francis Hall for refreshments and fellowship  
following the worship service**

(Francis Hall is out the main church doors and to the left)

## **TODAY'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

Presider & Preacher	Fr. Michael Fincher
Organist	David York
Crucifer	David Luebben-Morrill
Lector	Dave DeMent
Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs)	Carol Bernstein Cheryl Rodi

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Texts of Sunday sermons are available on our parish website, at  
<http://stgregoryschurch.com/sermons-archive/>

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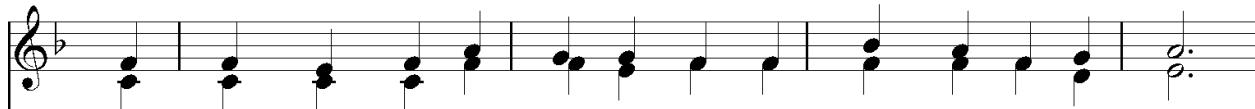
SEQUENCE HYMN

Hymnal 1982, Hymn 142

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

St. Flavian

(Congregation sings vv. 1, 2, & 3, the Gospel is read, then vv. 4 & 5 are sung)



1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us didst fast and pray,  
 2 As thou with Sa - tan didst con-tend, and didst the vic-tory win,  
 3 As thou didst hun-ger bear and thirst, so teach us, gra-cious Lord,  
 4 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through thy Pas-sion - tide,  
 5 A - bide with us, that so, this life of suf - fering o - ver - past,



1 teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.  
 2 O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to con-quer sin.  
 3 to die to self, and chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.  
 4 yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bide.  
 5 an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last!



## PRESENTATION HYMN

This Little Light of Mine

*This Joy*

*(Verse 1 will be sung by the children of the Sunday School. All join on the second verse)*

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh, oh, oh, oh.

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,

oh,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, b. 1935  
 Arr. © Horace Clarence Boyer, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## RECESSATIONAL HYMN

*Hymnal 1982, Hymn 143*

The Glory of These Forty Days

*Erhalt uns, Herr*



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we  
 2 A lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the  
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -  
 4 Then grant us, Lord, like them to be full  
 \*5 O Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit blest, to



1 ce - le - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all  
 2 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,  
 3 liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's  
 4 oft in fast and prayer with thee; our spi - rits strength - en  
 5 thee be ev - ery prayer ad - dressed, who art in three - fold



1 things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.  
 2 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.  
 3 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.  
 4 with thy grace, and give us joy to see thy face.  
 5 Name a - dored, from age to age, the on - ly Lord.

## **THIS WEEK AT ST. GREGORY'S**

### **Tuesday, February 24**

**Centering Prayer at 6:30 PM** on Zoom. Contact Fr. Michael for access information.

### **Thursday, February 26**

**Holy Eucharist and Healing Service at 10:00 AM** in the Chapel.

**Bible Study at 11:00 AM** in the Fireside Room.

**Lenten Soup Supper at 6:00 PM** in the Parish Hall.

**Lenten Program: Rule of Life at 6:45 PM** in the Parish Hall Conference Room.

**Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 PM** in the Choir Room. Contact David York for more information.

### **Sunday, March 1 – Second Sunday in Lent**

**Holy Eucharist (spoken) at 8:00 AM** in the Church.

#### **Sunday School**

**Seniors** (ages 11 to 18) at **9:30 AM** in the Youth Room.

**Juniors** (ages 8 to 10) at **10:15 AM** in the Youth Room.

**Beginners** (ages 5 to 7) at **10:15 AM** in the Youth Room.

**Holy Eucharist (with music)** at **10:15 AM** in the Church and live streamed on the St. Gregory's Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/>).

***Nursery Care is available on Sundays, starting at 7:45 AM, in the Nursery (Room 3)***

### **Evening Prayer (Tuesday through Thursday)**

**Evening Prayer:** Tuesday through Thursday at **5:00 PM** on the St. Gregory's Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/>).

*For Evening Prayer, you will need either a Book of Common Prayer or you can download the Evening Prayer liturgy and the Psalms for the week from the St. Gregory's website ([www.stgregoryschurch.com](http://www.stgregoryschurch.com)).*

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Sunday, February 22 – Music at Four**

**Lenten Evensong** at 4:00 PM in the Church. Start your Lenten journey with this service of choral music presented by St. Gregory's Choir and oboist Dave Champagne. Through readings, prayers and music we explore the themes of Lent. Music by Adrian Batten, Maurice Greene and Robert Hobby.

### **Saturday, March 7**

**Funeral for Barbara Cleantis** at 11:00 AM in the Church.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Nursery Attendant Needed:** We are seeking a Nursery Attendant to provide loving childcare on Sunday mornings from 7:45 AM to 12:15 PM, plus special holiday services. Experience in early childhood education preferred. First Aid and CPR certification required. This is a paid position, starting at \$17.00/hr, supporting our youngest members and their families. For more information or to apply, please contact Tamera Benedict or Dana Lindsay.

**Soles 4 Souls Returns to St. Gregory's:** We are again offering an outreach option for a Soles 4 Souls Shoe Drive during the month of February. You may bring gently used or new shoes to church any Sunday from February 1<sup>st</sup> through March 1<sup>st</sup>, and leave them in the boxes labeled Soles 4 Souls. If they have laces, please tie them together. Your old shoes provide new opportunities in our area, as well as in poverty-stricken areas of the United States, Africa, Haiti and other nations. Your gently used or new shoes will help those in need walk towards a brighter future. Give Hope.

**Lenten Program: Rule of Life:** Following on our study of the Rule of Benedict last summer, our Lenten program this year will be on the development of a personal Rule of Life. Since the early Church, we have lived by a Rule of Life. God lovingly invites us to pursue our shared calling as a Christian community and our unique vocation as individual disciples. In living a Rule, we are being intentional about the personal rhythms that shape our days. It is our way of partnering with God for the transformation only God can bring about. The Rule is a guide that supports our heart's desire to grow in loving God and others. Before creating a rule, we spend serious time reflecting on the whole of our lives, listening to God with attentive, responsive, discerning hearts. Join us as we learn, reflect, discern, and create our individual rules. Bring a journal or notebook. Sessions will be held on the following Thursday evenings: February 26, March 5, March 12, March 19, and March 26, starting about 6:45 PM.

**Pledge Numbers and Envelopes:** Please be advised that the Envelope Number and Pledge Number that you currently have will be remain the same for 2026 (unless you are a new pledge). A list is provided in the Narthex with your pledge number. Envelopes are also available for those who requested them. We ask that when you find your assigned envelopes, please

initial on the Envelope Number summary so we know that they went to the right home. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the office or email [info@stgregoryschurch.com](mailto:info@stgregoryschurch.com).

**American Sewing Guild:** The next meeting of the American Sewing Guild will be on Sunday, March 8 in the Conference Room. Please feel free to come to all or part of the meeting. For questions or more information, contact Susan Mora.

**Stitches of Faith:** Are you looking for a space to share your creativity, enjoy fellowship, and be inspired? Stitches of Faith is a gathering for anyone who loves to craft—or wants to learn! Whether you knit, crochet, quilt, paint, or want to try your hand at another craft, this group is open to all skill levels, including beginners eager to discover something new. We meet on Sundays from 1:00–3:30 PM in the Conference Room. Each week, we will enjoy time for projects, encouragement, and conversation in a relaxed, faith-filled environment. Light refreshments will be provided. Bring your supplies, your curiosity, and your kind spirit. Come create, connect, and grow in community with us!

**Lend a Hand:** Like any older building, St. Gregory's constantly needs maintenance and touching up. Fred Cornett has made up a list of things to do in the near future: Cleaning and arranging the janitor's closet and the storage areas, cleaning the trash cans, etc. Many hands make light work, and most of the jobs won't take much time if two or three people join in. There is a signup sheet in the narthex, and Fred is always available for consultation or questions: (562) 308-6955. Thanks, Fred, for getting the projects going!

**Altar Flower Donations:** Need a wonderful way to honor or remember a loved one or friend? Make a flower donation. There is a flower donation chart located on the Narthex wall that you can use to sign up for special dates to donate altar flowers. Simply fill out a donation form attached to the bottom of the chart and return the form to the Parish Office. Payment for flowers can be made by check or online at <https://stgregoryschurch.com/4721-2>. Make sure you specify your donation is for Altar Flowers. The Altar Guild thanks you.

**Episcopal News Updates:** The Diocese provides weekly email updates to help you keep informed about what's happening all over our six-county diocese. If you want to receive the Episcopal News, visit <https://diocesela.org/episcopal-news/contact/> and enter your email address in the box provided.

**Feed My Lambs and Food Bank:** THANK YOU for your generosity and your donations. In addition to your support, we are pleased to announce that St. Gregory's has been awarded \$1,000 from the Long Beach Food Access Fund in support of our feeding programs. We have also received 170 prepackaged boxes of nonperishable food from the Los Angeles Area Food Bank.

Here's the latest news on our parish feeding programs.

- **Feed My Lambs**
  - **Homemade cookies can be dropped off any time.** Please put your homemade cookies in Ziploc Bags and label them with the date and "FML" (this way we know they are for Feed My Lambs and not other purposes).

- **Please do not bring hardboiled eggs.** Due to issues with eggs, we now have a dedicated team responsible for providing hardboiled egg.
- **Volunteers** – If you are interested in helping out Feed My Lambs, contact Tamera Benedict at ([tlbenedict4@gmail.com](mailto:tlbenedict4@gmail.com), 562.301.6800).
- **Food Bank** The Food Bank relies on your financial support and appreciates all donations of funds or non-perishable food items. We also can use more volunteers at:
  - Bagging and distribution the THIRD WEDNESDAY of each month from 8:30 to 11:00 AM
  - Any other time you may have available and could assist with assembling our bags (e.g. on Sunday before or after service, or any time the office is open for access)
 Please contact the Parish Office ([info@stgregoryschurch.com](mailto:info@stgregoryschurch.com), 562.420.1311) or Bill Eldon ([billeldon@gmail.com](mailto:billeldon@gmail.com), 562.234.9920) for more information about the Food Bank.

Your continued support of our feeding ministries, through product and monetary contributions, is greatly appreciated!

**Gratitude for Your Support of the Parish:** We continue to be humbled and so incredibly grateful for your generosity in supporting our parish and its ministries! While you may not be able to drop your donation in a real offering plate, there are still ways you can make sure your donation gets to the parish:

- You can mail your check to the parish office.
- Make donations through our online payment account, accessible through the parish website at <http://stgregoryschurch.com/4721-2/>.
- Scan the QR code found in the Sunday bulletin.

And again, THANK YOU for your continued support!

**Parish Directory:** Our online parish directory is at <https://www.instantchurchdirectory.com/>. This is a secure site and can be accessed using the email address you had published in the parish directory. You can also download the “Instant Church Directory” on your smart phone. Versions are available for Android, iPhone, iPad, and Kindle.

**One Body & One Spirit Annual Appeal:** The Diocese has established an ongoing campaign focused on raising funds to assist congregations, schools, affiliated institutions, and their communities who are faced with unprecedented challenges. We are invited to prayerfully consider making a donation to help others in our Diocese who may have unmet needs. More information is available at <https://diocesela.org/annual-appeal/>.

**Forward Day By Day:** For those who use the Forward Day By Day booklet for personal devotions and need the newest edition mailed, please contact the Parish Office at 562-420-1311 or [info@stgregoryschurch.com](mailto:info@stgregoryschurch.com).

**In Case of Emergency . . . Notify Your Priest!** In the event of a hospital stay, illness, death in the family, or other pastoral emergency, please call Fr. Michael on his cell phone (909-373-6478). And PLEASE, no excuses about not wanting to bother me. That's why we are here – for YOU!

## ***PRAYER LIST***

Lydia Gibbs, Suzan Laverty, Martin Nemitz, Ferdinand Gonzalez, Patrick McDonough, Mike Laverty, Mother Beryl, Scott Morgan, Fran Luebben-Morgan, Harold Peacock, Rudy Revell, Jared Baker, Kimberly Bouzguenda, Shannon Romano, Ralph Tesla, Anne Cantrell, Matt Burger, Darlene Feit-Pretzer, Keeley Gilmore, Betty Peacock, Maria White, Laura Mae Harper, Elizabeth Laursen, Eric Kela, Dodie Martin, Savannah Jimenez, Martha Wong, Joanne Paine, Jonah Culbert, Carlos Cruz, Sean Wood, Marina Tesla, Nancy Luebben, Diane Duacsek, Michele Morrill, Kira Dirghalli, Edith Finney, Paige Hardin, Marty Wong, Miriam Edwards, Charles H. Parks, Perry Nelson, Nellie Bell, Ernie and Vickie Morrison, Alison and Mick, Phyllis Comiskey, Brett W., Adan Murillo, Val Kela, Michael Hipsman, Trisha Cookmeyer, Sally Blevins, Sue Davis, Jack Alt, Shizuka Yoda, Linda Elliott, Ron Dixon, Darryl Takaki, Paul Meyer, Juhani Palomaki, Lisa Christensen, Gloria Neal

*Note: Unless we are aware of on-going concerns, names only stay on the Parish Prayer List for a month. If names need to be re-added, please notify the Parish Office.*



# ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

6201 E. WILLOW STREET, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90815  
562-420-1311 [WWW.STGREGORYSCHURCH.COM](http://WWW.STGREGORYSCHURCH.COM)

## **WELCOME TO ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH!**

St. Gregory's is a warm and caring community of families and singles, young and old, committed to sharing the good news that Jesus is the Lord of all life. We are an Episcopal Church, having members from all backgrounds and religious traditions. Many of us had no church involvement before coming here. We want to offer to you the same welcome and friendship that were extended to us when we came to St. Gregory's.

## **ST. GREGORY'S MISSION STATEMENT**

God has called us into Christian community and gifted us for ministry:

To worship and glorify God  
To transform faith into action  
To share the love of Jesus Christ

The Right Reverend John H. Taylor  
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

The Reverend Michael K. Fincher, Rector  
[rector@stgregoryschurch.com](mailto:rector@stgregoryschurch.com)

David York, Music Director & Organist  
[york1635@aol.com](mailto:york1635@aol.com)

Parish Office Hours: 9:00am-12:00pm, Tuesday – Thursday