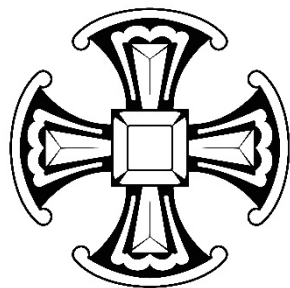


# ***Sixth Sunday after Pentecost (Independence Day)***



***Sunday, July 5, 2026***

8:00 AM (spoken) & 10:15 AM (with music)

***Also Live Streaming at***

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

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## **VOLUNTARY**

America the Beautiful

Music by Samuel A. Ward  
arr. Amy Snyder

*(Please stand)*

## **PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

God of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand

Bulletin Page 14

## **OPENING ACCLAMATION**

*Presider* Blessed be God: ✠ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

## **COLLECT FOR PURITY**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**GLORIA (8:00 Service)**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**SONG OF PRAISE (10:15 service)**

*Lauda Anima*

Glo - ry be to God in hea - ven, songs of joy and  
peace we bring, thank - ful hearts and voi - ces  
rais - ing, to cre - a - tion's Lord we sing:  
Lord, we thank you, Lord, we bless you,  
glo - ry be to God our King.

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

## FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 10.17-21

*Lector*          A Reading from Deuteronomy.

The LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the LORD your God; him alone you shall worship; to him you shall hold fast, and by his name you shall swear. He is your praise; he is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things that your own eyes have seen.

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

## PSALM 145.8-15

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.  
The LORD is loving to everyone  
and his compassion is over all his works.  
All your works praise you, O LORD,  
and your faithful servants bless you.  
They make known the glory of your kingdom  
and speak of your power;  
That the peoples may know of your power  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.  
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;  
your dominion endures throughout all ages.

The LORD is faithful in all his words  
and merciful in all his deeds.  
The LORD upholds all those who fall;  
he lifts up those who are bowed down.

## SECOND READING

Hebrews 11.8-16

*Lector*            A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old-- and Sarah herself was barren-- because he considered himself faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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

*(Please stand)*

## SEQUENCE HYMN

This is My Song, O God of All the Nations

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*(The congregation sings vv. 1 & 2, the Gospel is read, then v. 3 is sung)*

## HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5.43-48

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

Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

*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 *(Please stand)*

**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.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** *(Please remain standing or kneel)*

As we remember the birth of our nation, and the gifts of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, let us offer our thanks and prayers to God, the giver of all good gifts.

For the women and men who braved the long journey by sea to come to this new world,  
**We thank you Lord.**

For the tribes and nations who inhabited this land for generation upon generation,  
**We thank you Lord.**

For patriots who dreamed of, and fought for, a free nation,  
**We thank you Lord.**

For the men and women who laid the foundation of our democracy, and who pledged liberty and justice for all,  
**We thank you Lord.**

For those who built this country brick by brick, road by road, and town by town,  
**We thank you Lord.**

For the brave soldiers who have fought for our country, for all who paid for our freedom by their service, and those who paid by their sacrifice,  
**We thank you Lord.**

For the innovators and artists, poets and teachers, farmers and factory workers; for all who labor and provide for the common good,  
**We thank you Lord.**

For this land, with its peaks and valleys, coasts and deserts, fields and meadows,  
**We thank you Lord.**

For our own community, for those who came before us in this place, and for our neighbors near and far,

**We thank you Lord.**

Lord, we pray for The United States, that we might always be a nation which defends and promotes liberty and freedom, truth and justice.

**We pray to you Lord.**

That we might always be a nation where all are free to worship and pray,

**We pray to you Lord.**

That we might be a beacon of freedom to all those who live under the shadow of terror and hopelessness,

**We pray to you Lord.**

That those who are elected to govern and lead, would be guided by you, and be ever aware of the trust that has been given them,

**We pray to you Lord.**

That we would be a people who repent from our sins, and who always return to you and to your grace,

**We pray to you Lord.**

*Presider* Gracious God, Father of all nations, bless and defend us and our land; prosper the work of our hands, and increase in us your grace and compassion, and our offerings of thanks to you, our rock and our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **CONFESSIOIN OF SIN**

*Presider* 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.**

## 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

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

arr. Richard Walters

Kelsey Reynolds, soloist  
Jordan Tickner, piano

### PRESENTATION HYMN

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

*8ass tuns erfreuen*

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; Al-le-lu - ia, Al-le-lu - ia! Praise him above ye heav'n-ly host: Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. O\_\_ praise him, O\_\_ praise him, Al-le-lu - ia, Al-le-lu - ia, Al-le-lu - ia! A - men.

*Words: Thomas Ken (1637-1711)*

*Music: Lasst uns erfreuen, melody from Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1623; adapt. R.V. Williams (1872-1958)*

## 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 give him thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

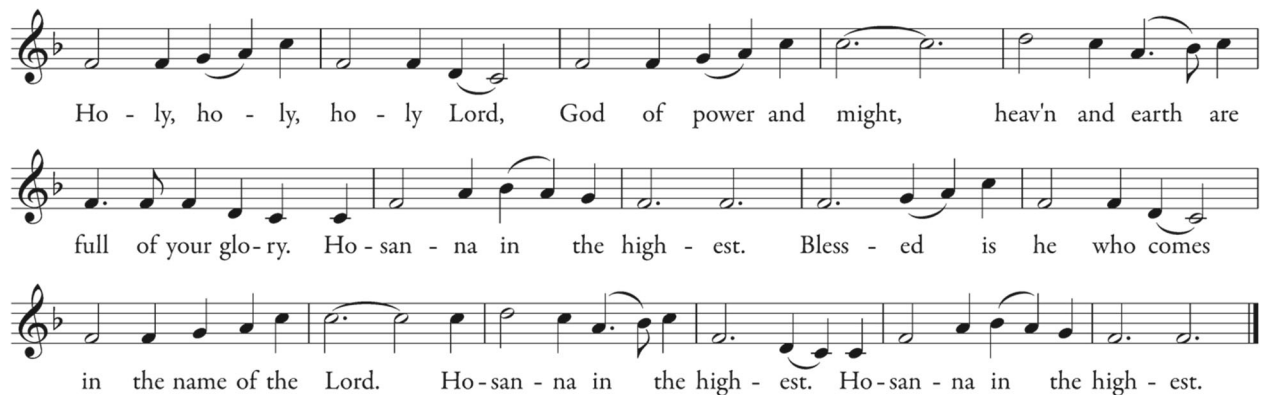
And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

*At the 8:00 Service:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*At the 10:15 Service:*

*Land of Rest, arr. Richard Proulx*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, heav'n and earth are  
full of your glo-ry. 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.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and 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 Presider breaks the host)*

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

*The Presider says the following 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 who are 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 of 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

All Day, All Night

Traditional Spiritual, arr. Patsy Ford Simms

Kelsey Reynolds, Jordan Tickner, soloists

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*Presider* Let us pray.

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## BLESSING

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

Bulletin Page 16

## THE DISMISSAL

*Presider* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

## VOLUNTARY

Crown Him with Many Crowns

G. Elvey, arr. Jerry Ray

**FLOWERS TODAY ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD**

**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

	<u>8:00 SERVICE</u>	<u>10:15 SERVICE</u>
Presider & Preacher	Fr. Michael Fincher	Fr. Michael Fincher
Pianist	—	Jan Rosson
Crucifer	—	David Luebben-Morrill
Lector	Peter Davis	Dave DeMent
Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs)	Holly Graham David Luebben-Morrill	Fran Luebben-Morgan Elizabeth Spencer

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

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**To make secure, online donations to St. Gregory's, simply scan:**



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PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Hymnal 1982, Hymn 718

God of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand

National Hymn

1 God of our fa - thers, whose al - might - y  
 2 Thy love di - vine hath led us in the  
 3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti -  
 4 Re - fresh thy peo - ple on their toil - some

hand leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band  
 past, in this free land by thee our lot is cast;  
 lence, be thy strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense;  
 way, lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;

of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies,  
 be thou our ru - ler, guard - ian, guide, and stay  
 thy true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease,  
 fill all our lives with love and grace di - vine,

our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.  
 thy word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way.  
 thy bount - eous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.  
 and glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er thine.

## SEQUENCE HYMN

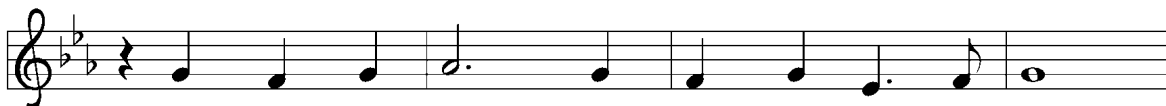
This is My Song, O God of All the Nations

*Finlandia*

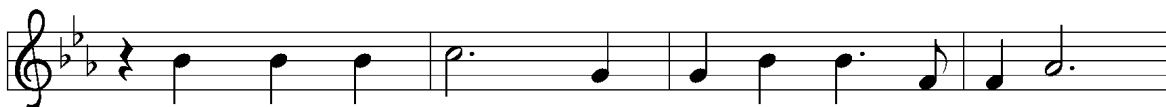
*(The congregation sings vv. 1 & 2, the Gospel is read, then v. 3 is sung)*



1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,  
2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,  
3 This is my prayer, O God of all earth's king - doms,



a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.  
and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.  
your king - dom come; on earth your will be done.



This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;  
But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,  
O God, be lift - ed up till all shall serve you,



here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;  
and skies are ev - 'ry - where as blue as mine.  
and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.



but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing  
So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,  
So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions;



with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.  
a song of peace for their land and for mine.  
my - self I give you; let your will be done.

Text: Lloyd Stone, 1912–1993, sts. 1–2; Georgia Harkness, 1891–1974, st. 3

Music: FINLANDIA, Jean Sibelius, 1865–1957

Text sts. 1–2 © 1934, 1962 Lorenz Publishing Company, st. 3 © 1964 Lorenz Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

Outside USA: Music © Breitkopf & Härtel, Wiesbaden.

RECESSIONAL HYMN  
Hymnal 1982, Hymn 719

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

Materna

1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,  
2 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,  
3 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years

for pur - ple moun - tain ma - jes - ties a - bove the fruit - ed plain!  
who more than self their coun - try loved, and mer - cy more than life!  
thine al - a - bas - ter ci - ties gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears!

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,  
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ery flaw,  
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,

and crown thy good with bro - ther - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.  
con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law.  
and crown thy good with bro - ther - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.

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

### **Tuesday, July 7**

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

### **Thursday, July 9**

**Holy Eucharist and Healing Service** at **11:00 AM** in the Church.

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

### **Sunday, July 12 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 10)**

**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***

**Consecration Watch Parties:** The Ordination and Consecration of the Rev. Antonio Gallardo as the Eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Los Angeles will be held on **Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM** at All Saints Church, Pasadena. Due to limited seating at All Saints, tickets will be required to attend. However, a number of “watch parties” are being held around the Diocese to allow people to gather and watch the ordination and consecration. St. Thomas of Canterbury will be hosting one of the watch parties. St. Thomas is located at 5306 E Arbor Rd., Long Beach (between Clark Ave. and Bellflower Blvd.).

**Episcopal Night at Dodger Stadium!** It’s Time For Dodger Baseball! Baseball season is underway, so it is time once again for all Episcopalians to gather at Dodger Stadium for Episcopal Night, featuring the Dodgers and the St. Louis Cardinals. This year's date will be **Thursday, September 3 at 7:10 PM**. The cost will be \$48.00. Tamera Benedict is the coordinator this year and will be assisting us as we navigate the Online Ticket Process. **NO MORE PAPER TICKETS**. Sign-up sheets are in the back of the church. **JULY 20 is the deadline!!!!** So, sign up soon! Questions? Contact Tamera at 562-301-6800 or [TLBENEDICT4@gmail.com](mailto:TLBENEDICT4@gmail.com).

## ***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

**St. Gregory’s always has your back!** BackPACK that is! The Long Beach Rescue Mission is again partnering with local middle schools to provide backpacks and supplies to children in need. We will run our drive **from June 7-July 26**, and our goal is to provide as many backpacks and supplies as possible. The list is specific, so please do not add anything extra. Remember, you do not have to provide a full backpack; simply donate what you are able. The flyer will be printed in our weekly bulletins and posted for your convenience on our social media accounts. If you choose to make a cash donation, you may do so from the church website or in the collection plate; make sure that you designate that your donation is earmarked for backpacks. Monetary donations may be made to the Mission for extra educational needs for residents.

### **Summer Pledge Payments:**

Summer is always a little bit rough for parish finances. Monthly income tends to drop due to parishioners being away on vacation. While our parishioners get to take vacations, the parish does not get a vacation from paying the bills. If at all possible, please keep up with your monthly pledge commitments during the summer months. It will make life a lot easier and less stressful for the Treasurer and the Finance Office. We are very grateful for your efforts to do so!

**Air Conditioner Fund:** As we recently informed the parish, we are having to replace the heating and air conditioning (HVAC) system in the Sanctuary, to the tune of \$120,000. While we are able to cover the expense out of our reserves, this will greatly deplete those funds. We are asking that parishioners consider giving to help offset the cost of our new HVAC system. You can do so by writing a check to St. Gregory’s with “HVAC” in the memo line. Or you can make a donation online through our parish website at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-24WR/campaign/C-12C50> and put HVAC in the note box. Thank you for your generosity.

**Columbarium Niches:** Many people do not realize we have a columbarium at St. Gregory's. Having your ashes placed in the columbarium is a less expensive option than burial at a cemetery and provides for your continued presence in a place that has been important to you during your life. For more information, contact the Parish Office.

**Vestry Minutes and Reports:** Following Vestry meetings, the approved minutes and reports are posted on our parish website (<https://stgregoryschurch.com/>). Click on the "About" tab and the last option under the dropdown menu is "Vestry Minutes & Reports." Approved minutes (without reports) are also posted on the bulletin board outside the Fireside Room. In addition, anyone is free to review minutes and reports of previous meetings, available in the Parish Office.

**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.

**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. 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 eggs.
  - **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, Laura Mae Harper, Elizabeth Laursen, Eric Kela, Dodie Martin, Savannah Jimenez, Martha Wong, Jonah Culbert, Carlos Cruz, Sean Wood, Marina Tesla, Nancy Luebben, Diane Duacsek, Michelle 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, Michael Hipsman, Trisha Cookmeyer, Sally Blevins, Sue Davis, Jack Alt, Shizuka Yoba, Linda Elliott, Ron Dixon, Darryl Takaki, Paul Meyer, Juhani Palomaki, Gloria Neal, Jerry Simundson, Barry Plemmons, Garren Plemmons, Meg Wagner, Annette Ffrench, Barbara Barton, Rosan Curtis, Nick Playter, Mary Playter, Holly Smigelsky, Dennis Smigelsky, David Caffrey, Brigitta Spinocchia Freund, Casey Ramsdell. Maria Cortez, Gloria Smith

*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)

David Sachs, Parish Administrator  
[info@stgregoryschurch.com](mailto:info@stgregoryschurch.com)

Parish Office Hours: 9:00am-12:00pm, Monday – Friday  
[www.stgregoryschurch.com](http://www.stgregoryschurch.com)