

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 12)

Sunday, July 26, 2026

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

Also Live Streaming at

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

VOLUNTARY

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

King/Elvey

(Please stand)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

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.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; 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

1 Kings 3.5-12

Lector A Reading from the First Kings.

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 119.129-136

Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.
When your word goes forth it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.
I open my mouth and pant;
I long for your commandments.
Turn to me in mercy,
as you always do to those who love your Name.
Steady my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.
Let your countenance shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.
My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your law.

SECOND READING

Romans 8.26-39

Lector A Reading from the Letter to the Romans.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

(Please stand)

SEQUENCE HYMN

Be Thou My Vision, O Lord of My Heart

Bulletin Page 16

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52

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

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it."

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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)*

Just as the Spirit intercedes with deep sighs, let us turn our hearts to the will of God and offer prayers for all peoples.

For this holy gathering, and for the people of God in every place; for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Antonio our bishop and for our parish clergy and lay leaders.

Hear our prayer.

For all nations, peoples, tribes, households, and families.

Hear our prayer.

For mercy, justice, and peace in the world.

Hear our prayer.

For farmers and a good harvest, for travelers and those on vacation, and for safety from violent storms.

Hear our prayer.

For all those in danger and need: the sick and the dying, the poor and the oppressed, prisoners and captives, and for their families.

Hear our prayer.

For those who rest in Christ and for the dead. We especially pray for those we mention now, silently or aloud [or in the comment section].

(pause)

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For ourselves, our families, our companions, and all those we love. We especially pray for those we mention now, silently or aloud [or in the comment section].

(pause)

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Presider God of infinite wisdom, who searches the heart of everyone, hear the prayers we offer you this day and gather us into the kingdom of heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION 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

I Surrender All

Weeden/Cook

Heather Snodgrass, soloist

PRESENTATION HYMN

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Lasst uns erfreuen

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 Auserlesne 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 (say):

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

Where Shall I Go?

Kenny Potter

Heather Snodgrass, soloist

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

God of Grace and God of Glory

Bulletin Page 17

THE DISMISSAL

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

All Hail the Power

Holden/Cook

FLOWERS TODAY ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

and

**by Caryn Cobb
in thanksgiving for Gloria Smith's 94th birthday**

**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

	8:00 SERVICE	10:15 SERVICE
Presider & Preacher	Fr. Michael Fincher	Fr. Michael Fincher
Pianist	—	Jan Rosson
Crucifer	—	David Luebben-Morrill
Lector	Alfonzo Lemus	Susan Mora
Lay Eucharistic	Holly Graham	Cheryl Rodi
Ministers (LEMs)	Tamera Benedict	Beth Eldon

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Hymnal 1982, Hymn 388

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

Hanover

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps) and 4/4 time. The score consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal staff with four parts and a piano accompaniment staff. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves. The first system covers the first two lines of the hymn, the second system covers the next two lines, and the third system covers the final line. The piano accompaniment features a simple, steady harmonic support for the vocal parts.

1 O wor - ship the King, all glo - rious a - bove!
2 O tell of his might! O sing of his grace!
3 The earth, with its store of won - ders un - told,
4 Thy boun - ti - ful care, what tongue can re - cite?
5 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,

1 O grate - ful - ly sing his power and his love!
2 Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space.
3 Al - might - y, thy power hath found - ed of old,
4 It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
5 in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;

1 Our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
2 His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
3 hath stab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
4 it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
5 thy mer - cies, how ten - der! how firm to the end!

1 pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
 2 and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.
 3 and round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
 4 and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
 5 Our Ma - ker, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend!

SEQUENCE HYMN

Hymnal 1982, Hymn 488

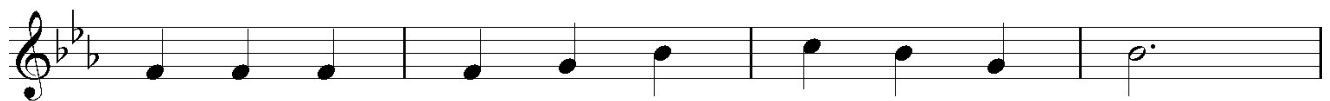
Be Thou My Vision, O Lord of My Heart

Stane

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



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,



all else be nought to me, save that thou art—
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!



thou my best thought, — by day or by night,
thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;
Heart of my heart, — what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.
still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

RECESSIONAL HYMN
Hymnal 1982, Hymn 594

God of Grace and God of Glory

Cwm Rhondda

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple pour thy power;
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as - sail his ways!
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to thy con - trol;
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils we de - plore;

crown thine an - cient Church's sto - ry; bring her bud to glo - rious flower.
 From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise:
 shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in things and poor in soul.
 let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our glo - ry ev - er - more.

Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this
 grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the liv - ing of these
 Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, lest we miss thy king - dom's
 Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, serv - ing thee whom we a -

hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

THIS WEEK AT ST. GREGORY'S

Tuesday, July 28

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

Thursday, July 30

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

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

Sunday, August 2 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 13)

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

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).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 13 – Welcome Back Sunday/Patronal Festival/Parish Picnic/Ministry Fair

Some of you have noticed that we did not do our annual Mass in the Grass and Parish Picnic at the beginning of summer. For a variety of reasons, we decided to try something different. On Sunday, September 13th, we will have a festive event wrapping together our patronal feast day for St. Gregory the Great (slightly transferred), a “welcome back” celebration, and (back by popular demand) a ministry fair. **We will have one service that day at 10:15 AM**, followed by a parish lunch and ministry fair. And whatever else our Parish Life Committee has in store for us.

Saturday, September 19 – Deanery 8 Welcoming of Bishop Gallardo

On Saturday, September 19th at 11:00 AM, St. Gregory's will host the Deanery 8 event welcoming our new bishop, the Rt. Rev. Antonio Gallardo. This will be an opportunity to meet

and get to know Bishop Antonio and to hear a little about his vision for his episcopacy. A buffet lunch will be served.

Saturday, October 3 – Blessing of the Animals

We will have our annual Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 3rd at 10:00 AM. The brief service will include several prayers attributed to St. Francis followed by individual blessings of all animals present. For the comfort and safety of all concerned, human and non-human guests alike, we do ask that a few ground rules be honored. Please restrain all animals. They should be on leashes (if appropriate) or in carriers. And please clean up any messes your pet makes. If you are not able to, or are uncomfortable bringing your pet, or if your pet is uncomfortable coming out, you can bring a picture of your pet or one of your pet's favorite toys, which we will bless instead.

Sunday, October 4 – Episcopal Visitation

It is the practice in the Diocese of Los Angeles that every congregation have an official visitation by a bishop every two years. This is our year. On Sunday, October 4th, we will have a visitation by the Rt. Rev. Frank Brookhart, retired Bishop of Montana and one of the Assisting Bishops in the Diocese of Los Angeles. **We will have one service at 10:15 AM.** The service will include the baptism of Henry Scott and the confirmation of Carrick Ahland. A parish lunch will follow the service.

Saturday, October 10 – Funeral for Gloria Neal

The funeral and celebration of life for Gloria Neal (Drew) will be held on Saturday, October 10th at 10:00 AM. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall.

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-Z4WR/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, 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, 562.420.1311) or Bill Eldon (billleldon@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.

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, 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, Linda Elliott, Ron Dixon, Darryl Takaki, Paul Meyer, Juhani Palomaki, Jerry Simundson, 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, Lynda Hartman, Gary Laursen, Vivian Anaya-Outler

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.

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

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



Permission to reprint and stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-736712. All rights reserved.



ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

6201 E. WILLOW STREET, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90815
562-420-1311 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 Rev. Dr. Antonio José Gallardo Lucena
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

The Rev. Michael K. Fincher, Rector
rector@stgregoryschurch.com

David York, Music Director & Organist
york1635@aol.com

David Sachs, Parish Administrator
info@stgregoryschurch.com

Parish Office Hours: 9:00am-12:00pm, Monday – Friday
www.stgregoryschurch.com