



Late Jan - March 2024

Saint Gregory Greek Orthodox Church

# The Mustard Seed

*"... if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you." --Matt. 17:20*

## Fr. Alex's Reflection: Lent Approaches

Beloved Parishioners and Friends:

At the writing of this note on the eve of our parish feast day, I am very excited about the installation of our new icon mural—and in disbelief that we are quickly approaching the start of Great Lent on March 18 (Clean Monday).

This holy time of prayer, reflection, personal sacrifice, fasting and compassion for others represents a tremendous opportunity for us to re-engage our relationship with God, as well as one another. **As we move closer to Him through earnest participation in our services and sacraments, we are constantly reminded of the importance of moving closer to one another.** To love God is to love His children.

As we ask of the Lord during the Holy Anaphora (the moment the bread is consecrated) in Saint Basil's Liturgy, ***"And unite us all to one another who become partakers of the one Bread and the Cup in the communion of the one Holy Spirit."***

I wish you, and yours, a life-changing and fruitful Lenten season. We'll make this journey together!

*Fr. Alex*



## Liturgical/Sacraments

### Sunday Services

**Orthros, 8:30 am; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am**

**Jan. 28:** 15th Sunday of Luke (Feast Day B-fast)

**Feb. 4:** 15th Sunday of Matthew

**11:** 16th Sunday of Matthew

**18:** Sunday of the Canaanite

**25:** Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee

**March 3:** Sunday of the Prodigal Son

**10:** Judgment Sunday

**17:** Forgiveness Sunday

**24:** Sunday of Orthodoxy

**31:** Sunday of Saint Gregory Palamas

**-Weekday Orthros & Divine Liturgy**

**Presentation of the Lord: Feb. 2; Annunciation:**

**March 25** (usual Orthros/Liturgy times)

**-Soul Saturdays: March 9, 16 & 23** (usual Orthros/Liturgy times)

**-PreSanctified Liturgies: March 20 & 27, 6 pm**

**-Salutations: March 22 & 29, 6:30 pm**

### Scheduling Memorials and Sacraments

Offering memorials and engaging the sacraments (like baptisms and weddings) are vital aspects of our parish life. **To inquire about dates and make plans with Fr. Alex, contact the church office.**



## Youth Ministries: Sunday School, JOY, GOYA & More

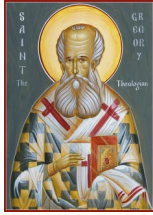
For details on Sunday School events, contact **Dionne Katinas** (dionnekatinas@comcast.net) and **Maureen Dimitriou** (dimitriou5@live.com). Contact Steve Christo (smchristo@comcast.net) for GOYA updates and Fr. Alex for all other youth events. Please save these dates and plan to join us. Look for further details in our weekly communications, and contact our youth leaders with any questions. **Especially this Great Lent, we hope our children and families will engage in as many worship, enrichment and fellowship activities as possible.**

- ♦ **February 4 and March 3:** Sunday School students will sit together with for an up-close view of Divine Liturgy. Also, the 4th & 5th Grade Class will meet w/Fr. Alex for the Confession Program.
- ♦ **February 11:** We are all invited to Godparent Sunday! Our Sunday Schoolers will be preparing invitations for their Godparents, who will join them for class and Fellowship Hour.
- ♦ **Now through February 11:** GOYA "Souper Sunday" Food Drive for Mansfield Food Pantry. Parishioners are invited to bring non-perishable goods to the Narthex food bin until the 11th.
- ♦ **March 16:** Possible GOYA dance event as part of our Thriving Congregations Initiative. Our GOYAns will soon confirm this or another date.
- ♦ **March 24:** Sunday of Orthodoxy icon procession. Our Sunday Schoolers will participate.
- ♦ **March 24:** Myrrhbearers Ministry and Altar Server mtgs. after Sunday School.
- ♦ **May 3 (save the date):** Sunday School Holy Friday Youth Retreat



## Stewardship Update –Phil LaFond

The 2024 Stewardship program theme draws from the Parable of the Talents in which the master praises his servants who have multiplied the talents he has entrusted to them in his absence, exclaiming "Well done, good and faithful servant!" (Matt 25:23). As Stewards of Saint Gregory, it is also our responsibility to use the gifts God has entrusted to us, multiplying them by joining the talents together in communion to create so much more than any of us alone can.



**Our stewards have shown great generosity already in this new campaign year, with 43 Steward families committing approximately \$127,000 in support to our parish ministries.**

We have also seen an increase in stewards offering support of our ministries with their time and talent, and because of this we have been able to get needed committees established to enable our great ministries and programs. Many people have volunteered to support our Food Festival this summer, and more support for this is needed.

**If you have not yet submitted a commitment card for 2024, please consider doing so as soon as you are able.** You can find forms in the Narthex, or use the online form available in the Stewardship section of our website.

**Many thanks to all our Saint Gregory stewards!**

### Great Lent Begins March 18

*"O Master, Prudence, Guide of Wisdom, Instruction to the foolish and Defender of the poor, strengthen my heart and grant it discernment. Give me words, Word of the Father, for behold, I shall not keep my lips from crying out to You, 'O Merciful One, have mercy on me who has fallen.'" –Kontakion of Forgiveness Sunday*

### Philoptochos & "Souper" Bowl Sunday

#### ◆ Philoptochos Cookie Walk & More, Feb. 11

Please join us on Sunday, Feb. 11 for our annual **Cookie Walk!** Fill your bag and warm your heart with sweet cookie treats. Please wear red this day in support of Women's Heart Health Awareness Month. Funds raised will help support many local charities, including the local Sisters at Heart Organization (<http://sistersatheart.org>), which provides financial support and assistance to those affected by heart disease and stroke. **Please mark your calendars as our next general meeting will be held on February 25 following Sunday School.** A zoom link will be provided to those interested in joining from home.

#### ◆ "Souper" Bowl Sunday Activities, Feb. 11

Led by our GOYAns, we will once again be participating in "Souper" Bowl Sunday activities. Please help with the following efforts if you can:

**\*\*\*Now through Feb. 11, please bring non-perishable food for the benefit of Mansfield Food Pantry.**

**\*\*\*On Feb. 11 after Liturgy, we will pass the "Souper" pots around following Divine Liturgy for the benefit of International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). Thanks for your support!**



## Sponsoring Fellowship Hour

We invite all of our parishioners to consider hosting Fellowship Hour on a coming Sunday this winter and spring. Fellowship Hour is a cherished tradition at St. Gregory, and it is a vital part of ensuring an inviting and engaged parish which is welcoming to all. You can host for a memorial, anniversary, birthday, graduation or just fellowship.



Sign up on Sundays in the hall or with our SignUpGenius page via the QR code to the left. All the details are within the sign-up page. **Fellowship Hour Chair Brian Kaufman can also be contacted with any questions: [bvkaufman@gmail.com](mailto:bvkaufman@gmail.com).**

### Education/Community

- **Orthodoxy 101, begins Feb. 18.** Fr. Alex will continue this study on select Sundays following Divine Liturgy. See our coming weekly bulletins for the full winter schedule.
- **New Parasco Scholarship, deadline March 31.** Besides our academic scholarships, our parish is introducing a new scholarship for high schoolers engaging service and enrichment programs, like Project Mexico and CrossRoad. Application materials will soon be available.
- **Habitat for Humanity Build, April 13.** As part of our Thriving Congregations Initiative grants, we will once again support and join a Habitat build. Please contact Fr. Alex or Gina in the church office for further details.
- **Celebrating with You & Yours.** Have a special family anniversary or achievement you would like to share? Contact Fr. Alex and we will be happy to spread the news within *The Mustard Seed* and our bulletins.

### CONTACT & MEDIA

**Saint Gregory Greek Orthodox Church**  
1007 West Street  
Mansfield, MA 02048  
508.337.9986

#### Web

[www.saintgregorythetheologian.org](http://www.saintgregorythetheologian.org)

#### Instagram

@saintgregorythetheologian

#### FaceBook/Streaming Services

[www.facebook.com/saintgregorythetheologian](https://www.facebook.com/saintgregorythetheologian)

#### YouTube/Streaming Services

[www.saintgregorythetheologian.org/media-gallery/youtube.html](http://www.saintgregorythetheologian.org/media-gallery/youtube.html)