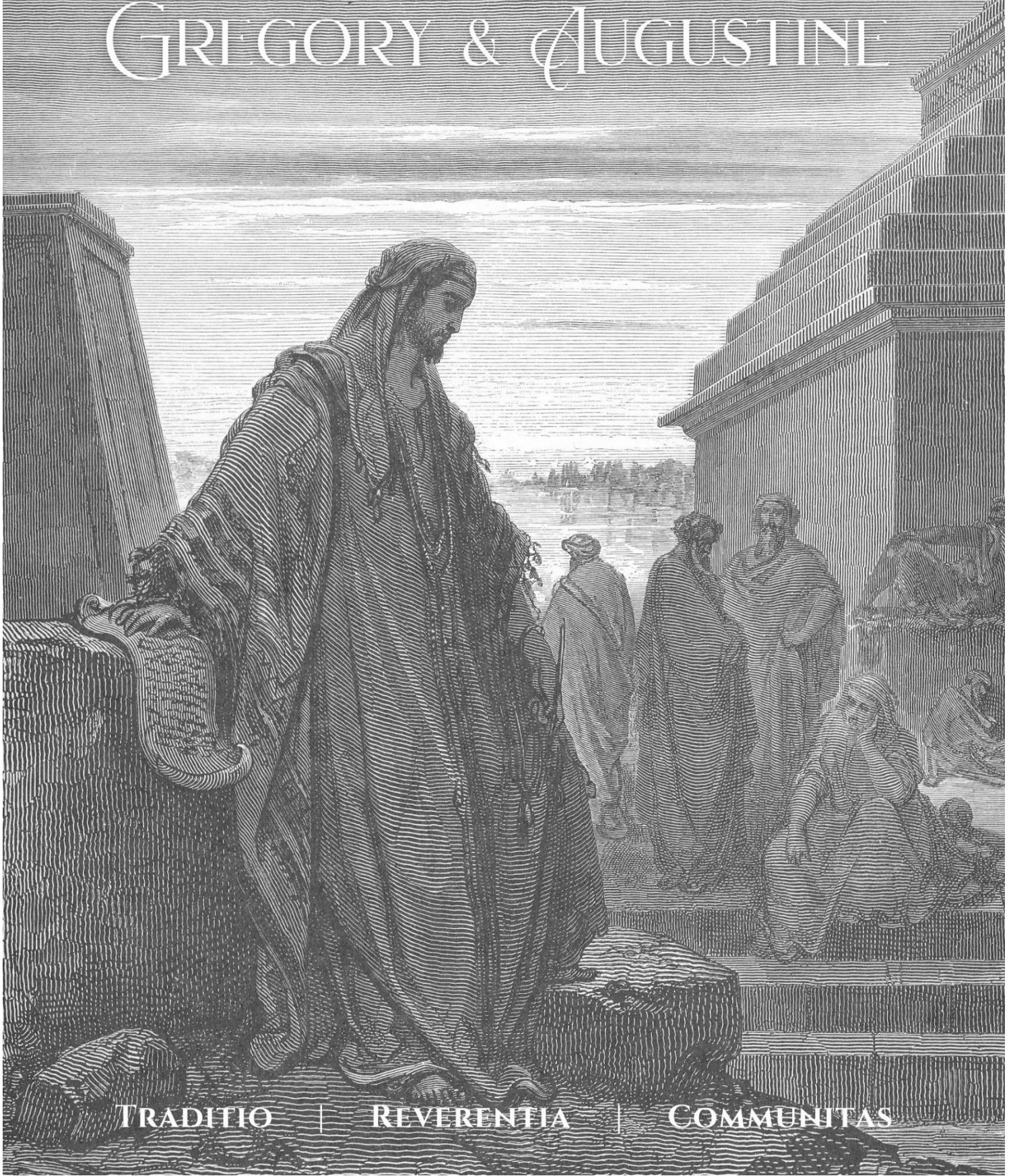


THE ORATORY OF SAINTS
GREGORY & AUGUSTINE



TRADITIO

REVERENTIA

COMMUNITAS

Welcome to the Oratory of Saints Gregory and Augustine

The Oratory of Saints Gregory and Augustine is pleased to welcome you. We are an apostolate of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis faithful to the teachings of the Church and striving to grow as a family of faith through the celebration of the Traditional Latin Mass and other Sacraments.

In the First Book of *The Confessions*, the other great St. Augustine (of Hippo) wrote the following: "Thou hast made us for Thyself and our hearts are restless until they find rest in Thee." Whether you are curious about the traditional Latin Mass and interested in exploring its beauty, searching for a parish community where you and your family will feel at home, or seeking rest for your heart, we hope that the Oratory of Saints Gregory and Augustine can provide that respite for you.

Our bulletin serves to provide information about the weekly activities occurring here at the Oratory. Along with our website (www.stlouislatinmass.com), the bulletin is your point of contact with the ever-increasing activities at the Oratory. I hope this will give you some sense of the grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and work of the Holy Spirit in our midst. I am delighted that God has brought you here! *Oremus pro invicem!* ~ The Very Reverend Monsignor C. Eugene Morris, Rector

MASS AND SACRAMENTS

Sunday Masses

- 6:30 am (Low Mass)
- 8:00 am (Low Mass)
- 10:00 am (High Mass)

Weekday Masses

- Monday thru Friday: 6:30 am & 12:15 pm
- First Friday: 6:30 pm
- Saturday: 8:15 am

Confession

- Sunday: 7:30 am – 10:30 am
- Monday thru Friday: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
- Wednesday: 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
- First Friday: 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
- Saturday: 7:00 am – 8:00 am

Adoration

- Wednesday: 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
- First Friday: 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm (starting 2/6/26)

Divine Office

- Sunday: Prime @ 7:20 am; Terce @ 9:40 am; Vespers @ 2:30 pm
- Monday: Vespers @ 6 pm; Compline @ 6:30 pm
- Tuesday & Thursday: Compline @ 6:30 pm
- Wednesday: Vespers @ 6 pm; Compline @ 6:30 pm

Infant Baptism – Baptisms are normally scheduled on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Saturdays of the month beginning at 10:00 am. Families expecting newborns and anticipating that they will be baptized here at the Oratory should schedule their baptism at the earliest convenience by contacting the Oratory office.

Adult Baptism – If you are interested in becoming Catholic or if you are an adult Catholic not yet confirmed, please contact the Oratory office for more information about adult catechesis.

Matrimony – Please contact the Oratory office at least six months prior to the desired date for the rite of marriage. The date is reserved after consultation and confirmation from the Rector of the Oratory.

Extreme Unction/Visitation of the Sick – Contact the Oratory to arrange the sacrament either at home or in the hospital.

STAFF/ORGANIZATIONS

- **Rector:** Msgr. C. Eugene Morris
rector@oratorysga.org
- **Vice-Rector:** Fr. Michael Rennier
vicerector@oratorysga.org
- **Deacon:** Deacon Steve Pieper, MD
deacon@oratorysga.org
- **Administrative Assistant:** Donna Mueller
office@oratorysga.org
- **Facilities Manager:** Ben Schubert
facilities@oratorysga.org
- **Auxiliatrix:** Anna Kalinowski
auxiliatrix@oratorysga.org
- **Almonry of Ss. Gregory & Augustine:**
almonry@oratorysga.org
- **Altar and Rosary Society:**
altarandrosary@oratorysga.org
- **Altar Servers:**
servers@oratorysga.org
- **Choir:**
choir@oratorysga.org
- **Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD):**
ccd@oratorysga.org
- **Co-Op:**
co-op@oratorysga.org
- **Events:**
events@oratorysga.org
- **Knights of Columbus:**
kofc17355@oratorysga.org
- **Schola:**
schola@oratorysga.org
- **Troops of Saint George:**
tsg@oratorysga.org
- **Ushers:**
ostiarii@oratorysga.org
- **Young Adults:**
youngadults@oratorysga.org
- **Online Giving:**
<https://www.osvhub.com/st-louis-latin-mass>

CONTACT US

314-644-2144 / stlouislatinmass.com
7230 Dale Avenue, Richmond Heights, MO 63117

Sexagesima**FROM THE RECTOR**

Catholics are not ignorant of Sacred Scripture; the opposite is true. We find in the sacred texts a unity that serves to prepare us for and teach us about the revelations of God and the mysteries of Christ in whom we have salvation. In preparation for Ash Wednesday and the Lenten season, the Church sets before us Noah and Abraham, Old Testament figures who are intimately involved in salvation history. Noah's fidelity to the Lord and obedience to the will of the Father along with his constancy during the flood are a foreshadowing of the coming of the salvific work of Christ and the response that we should have to Our Savior and what He accomplishes for us. Like Noah we are called to fidelity and obedience; so too, fidelity and obedience are fruits of the cleansing waters of baptism that Christ provides for His chosen ones. If the ark saved the world at one time, the wood of the cross has saved the whole world for all time. So too, Abraham our father in faith, places his complete trust in the will of the Father even in the midst of being asked to sacrifice his only son. Abraham is spared the painful sacrifice of his son. However, Our Heavenly Father accepts the sacrifice of His only Son allowing Christ's death for our sins to be the perfect expression of the Father's love for us. Spiritual growth requires a fostering virtue. It is not enough to want to be holy; we must cooperate with grace to become holy and manifest that holiness through a life of virtue. Our time before Lent provides the opportunity to ask ourselves in which virtues I need to grow. This week let us give particular attention to fidelity and obedience. The profound confusion that exists in the Church today comes from a serious lack of faithfulness to tradition and a refusal to be obedient to the truths of Christ and His Church. We can participate in stemming the tidal waves of disobedience and infidelity through our own configuration to Christ, doing whatever He commands us to do. We must listen attentively to St. Paul's exhortation to the Corinthians and find our strength in suffering and glorify the Lord through our sacrifices; sacrifices that may require our physical strength but more importantly the sacrifices of our will and intellect in humility before Christ and the Church.

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UPCOMING EVENTS**Sunday, 8 February:**

- Prime @ 7:20 am
- Confessions @ 7:30 am
- Terce @ 9:40 am
- Coffee Hour @ 11:30 am
- Vespers @ 2:30 pm

Monday, 9 February:

- Server Training @ 4:30 pm
- Girls' Guild @ 4:30 pm
- Vespers @ 6:00 pm
- Troops of St. George @ 6:30 pm
- Compline @ 6:30 pm

Tuesday, 10 February:

- Compline @ 6:30 pm
- Choir practice @ 7:00 pm

Wednesday, 11 February:

- Adult Catechesis Class @ 4:00 pm
- Holy Hour/Confessions @ 5:00 pm
- Vespers @ 6:00 pm
- Compline @ 6:30 pm
- Girls' Guild Procession @ 6:30 pm
- Girls' Guild Social @ 7:00 pm

Thursday, 12 February:

- Compline @ 6:30 pm
- Knights of Columbus Mtg. @ 7:00 pm

Friday, 13 February:

- No Scheduled Events

Saturday, 14 February:

- Grizzle Baptism @ 10:00 am
- Werner Baptism @ 11:00 am

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PILGRIM VIRGIN MARY STATUE 2026

01/25-02/01 Filla	02/01-02/08 Petrick
02/08-02/15 D'Cunha	02/15-02/22 Alexander
02/22-03/01 Stolarski	03/01-03/08 Henry
03/08-03/15 Santschi	03/15-03/22 Kiser
03/22-03/29 Agnew	03/29-04/05 Buyle

04/05-04/12 Leljedal	04/12-04/19 Grizzle
04/19-04/26 Turntine	04/26-05/03 Haulard
05/03-05/10 Kelly	05/10-05/17 Jones
05/17-05/24 Holman	05/24-05/31 Carapella
05/31-06/07 Cook	06/07-06/14 Hayward
06/14-06/21 Joseph	06/21-06/28 Blum
06/28-07/05 Wisniewski	07/05-07/12 Catalano
07/12-07/19 Kenney	07/19-07/26 Raymond
07/26-08/02 Hayes	08/02-08/09 Schuette
08/09-08/16 Filla	08/16-08/23 Petrick

Drop off and pick up the statue in the vestibule (back of church). Place the statue bag on the floor to left of the Oratory table. To join or to quit the schedule contact Sharon Alexander saalexa@sbcglobal.net

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MASS INTENTIONS**Monday, 9 February – *St. Cyril of Alexandria***

6:30 am: Ian Frederick Hofmann (d)
12:15 pm: Sean & Sarah Burbach

Tuesday, 10 February – *St. Scholastica*

6:30 am: Stacey Adams
12:15 pm: The Horan Family

Wednesday, 11 February – *The Apparition of the BVM*

6:30 am: Jamie Añaso (d)
12:15 pm: Mary Knollmeyer (d)

Thursday, 12 February – *Seven Holy Founders*

6:30 am: Mary McDonald (d)
12:15 pm: Philip Sweeney

Friday, 13 February – *Feria*

6:30 am: William McDonald (d)
12:15 pm: Fr. James Rodis (d)

Saturday, 14 February – *Saturday of Our Lady*

8:15 am: Mary Knollmeyer (d)

Sunday, 15 February – *Quinquagesima Sunday*

6:30 am: Pro Populo
8:00 am: Melba Wilmarth
10:00 am: Mary Knollmeyer (d)

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Sexagesima

BLESSING OF ITEMS: NEW PROCEDURE

Going forward, the blessings of religious items will take place after the 8:00 am Holy Mass at St. Joseph Altar. This will happen on the Second Sunday of each month. In this way, items can be blessed and retrieved in a more timely manner. This process will replace bringing items to the rectory to be blessed. **ALL ITEMS TO BE BLESSED MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE ST. JOSEPH ALTAR ON THE 2ND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH BEFORE HOLY MASS.** Those who desire to have items blessed should bring them to the St. Joseph Altar before the 8:00 am Holy Mass with their names clearly marked on the items to be blessed. These items should be left on the St. Joseph Altar. If there are a large number of items, they can be placed around the altar but should not impede the distribution of Holy Communion. Two blessings will be given: one for rosaries and one for all other items grouped together. There is no need to take items from their packaging. **This new process begins Sunday, 8 March 2026, therefore the rectory is not accepting any additional items to be blessed as of this publication.**

BLESSING & IMPOSITION OF THE BROWN SCAPULAR

Twice a year at Advent and Lent, the Oratory invests its faithful in the Brown Scapular. To assist those who desire to have a scapular blessed and imposed on them, **on the First Sunday of Lent, 22 February 2026 after the 8 am Holy Mass**, there will be the blessing and imposition of scapulars on those who present themselves at the communion rail. Please bring your own scapular, have it unwrapped and off your neck if you are already wearing it. As there might a great number of people presenting themselves for this blessing, the only thing that will be blessed this day is the scapular. Any questions, please contact Msgr. Morris directly via email at rector@oratorysga.org.

SEPTUAGESIMA & THE LENTEN SEASON

The season of Septuagesima began 1 February 2026 providing the opportunity to better prepare ourselves for the Lenten Season which begins on Ash Wednesday, 18 February 2026.

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated on the Fridays of Lent after the conclusion of the 12:15 pm Holy Mass.

The schedule for **Holy Week: HOLY THURSDAY @ 5:00 PM; GOOD FRIDAY @ 3:00 PM; HOLY SATURDAY @ 2:00 PM**. This information is shared early so that you might plan your schedules accordingly.

All of this information will continue to be available both in our bulletin and online. In a few weeks there will be a flyer of the Liturgical schedule in the bulletin that will have all this information for our Lenten season.

FSSP VISIT: HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

Dear Faithful,

I am excited to announce that the seminarians of Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary (FSSP) will be making a trip to St. Louis over 25 April – 28 April. Over 60 traditional seminarians and priests will come to St. Louis for a few days of touring before they buckle down for the last push through their semester.

The seminary has reached out to our Oratory to coordinate some shared events, such as liturgies and receptions where our faithful may have the chance to meet the seminarians.

8 February 2026

There is also the opportunity for host families to house seminarians (25 April – 27 April, i.e. three nights). Please see the following criteria for this:

1. No minors (under 18 years old) may be in the household at any time during the seminarians' stay.
2. Host families should be comprised of at least one adult man (no single female hosts).
3. Host houses should be within about a 45-minute commute from Ss. Gregory & Augustine.

If you happen to meet these criteria and you are interested in hosting, please contact Anna Kalinowski at auxiliatrix@oratorysga.org no later than 27 March.

Please follow the bulletin for future announcements about this visit. Peace in Christ, Msgr. Morris

FSSP VISIT: DONATIONS WELCOME

If you would like to make a donation to the Oratory to offset our expenses to cover the seminarians' meals, etc. please write FSSP in the memo line of your check and drop it in the collection basket or mail it the rectory. You can also make an online donation under the "FSSP visit" fund.

<https://www.osvhub.com/st-louis-latin-mass/giving/funds>

All donations are tax deductible.

FIRST FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: CLARIFICATION AND APOLOGY

It has long been a desire of mine as rector to have more Eucharistic Adoration at the Oratory of Ss. Gregory and Augustine. For a brief time, several years ago, we did have extended periods of adoration on Wednesdays and Fridays; unfortunately, the community was unable to sustain that with consistent adorers. Sadly, there were times when Our Lord was left alone in Church which of course should not and cannot ever happen. I had hoped that the community could begin adoration again with the First Friday of each month for 2026. It was anticipated that we would start on Friday, 2 January 2026. Again, we were unable to find a sufficient number of the faithful to be present at Adoration and to fill all of the hours. I made the decision to cancel adoration. This decision, however, was not communicated to all those who had signed up and who came to Church on 2 January expecting Eucharistic Adoration. I am truly sorry for any inconvenience this confusion caused and I am hopeful that those who did commit would be willing to do so again going forward. To that end, I am hopeful that we can find a sufficient number of the faithful to spend time with our Lord on Friday, 6 February 2026 from 1:00 pm until 6:00 pm. Hopefully, Adoration will take place every First Friday afternoon going forward to honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus. As a reminder: faithful are needed to adopt an hour of adoration to ensure that the Blessed Sacrament is never left alone. To sign up for an hour, please email Anthony Jones at events@oratorysga.org

FREE BOWLING AT EPIPHANY LANES: ALL ARE INVITED!

Oratory faithful of all ages are invited to Epiphany Lanes on Sunday, 15 February, 12:30-2:30 pm, for a bowling party courtesy of Vita Communis Young Adults. Children should be accompanied by an adult. Food is available for purchase. Epiphany Lanes address: 3164 Ivanhoe Ave, St. Louis, MO.

Sexagesima

2026 CALENDARS

The calendars for 2026 for the Oratory Community have arrived!! The calendars are available in the main vestibule and at the side doors. You are kindly asked to initially take one calendar per household. Once everyone has had a chance to pick up a calendar, there should be more available in late February for those who need another one. This year's calendar comes from the Transalpine Redemptorists, a community of traditional monks rooted in the Redemptorists charism who practice both the contemplative and active life. Their motherhouse is in Scotland and they have recently founded a house in Montana.

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COAT DRIVE ~ THANK YOU!

The Knights of Columbus are grateful to all who donated coats and hats this year. They collected a total of 32 coats and 4 hats. Thank you for your generosity.

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IN GRATITUDE

As we continue to rejoice in the mystery of the Incarnation and thank God for His mercy, I want to express my gratitude to all the faithful of the Oratory for your on-going monetary support for the work of the Oratory. I am particularly grateful for your generosity not only to the weekly commitments needed to sustain the Oratory, but also to the success of Giving Tuesday in early December and your generosity to the Advent fundraiser for the Men's Schola. In a short period of time, there were many financial expectations set before you and the community has responded generously to these various requests. Please know of my daily prayers for our whole community and my personal gratitude in being able to serve a community so generous and faithful.

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EPIPHANY WATER, SALT, AND CHALK 2026

Epiphany water, salt, and chalk have been blessed and are available to the faithful for as long as it remains. You are free to use your own containers for Epiphany water. All of the blessed water will be available until we run out.

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CRITICAL/EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The recent violence against Christians, and particularly the Catholic Church, is a serious cause for concern. While being vigilant and aware of the various situations in which we might find ourselves, we must guard ourselves against living fearfully in the world. Assisting in finding this proper balance, the Oratory of Ss. Gregory and Augustine has plans in place in the event of a critical or emergency incident. In consultation with the Rector of the Oratory, the Ushers of the Oratory will be the men in charge of responding to any emergency situation. All the faithful of the Oratory are asked to follow their directives in the case of any critical incident or emergency situation. A proper chain of command, led by those with the necessary training, will assist the whole community if a critical and/or life-threatening situation should present itself. I am grateful to Dr. Robert Morgan and Tim Turtine for their leadership and expertise along with other members of the community and all of the ushers for undertaking this necessary and serious responsibility. If anyone is interested in serving in this capacity, please contact Dr. Morgan at ostiarii@oratorysga.org to become an usher which will facilitate your participation. Finally, if any member of our community has concerns, please communicate those directly to Rector.

8 February 2026

STREET PARKING

As our community continues to grow, parking on Sundays is at a premium, especially at the 10:00 am Holy Mass. If you are parking on the street, please do not block any driveways. It was recently communicated that a driveway was blocked and the person living there was unable to get out. Fortunately, this neighbor was willing to wait until the conclusion of Holy Mass. Sadly, not all of our neighbors are happy about our presence or our growth and it is important that we work with them even if they do not want to work with us. Let's not provide any opportunity to cause or create a problem. Please be conscious of working to be good neighbors and do not block drives or park in places that are not available to us.

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ADULTS SEEKING THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

We welcome those interested in becoming Catholic. To get started in that process within the OSGA community, please email one of our priests for an introductory meeting. Their contacts are available in the bulletin. After this, candidates for Initiation at the Oratory will be directed to complete a registration form with our Administrator.

Catechism classes are held in the St Joseph Room (rectory basement) generally on a bi-monthly basis on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 4:00-5:15 pm.

The content surrounds a set of topics central to Catholic teaching, as set forth by Msgr. Morris. Deacon Pieper moderates most meetings through a question and answer format and hopes to promote sincere dialogue with the candidates regarding those topics and/or related questions. The intent is to communicate Christ and His Church. Sacraments are offered on an individual basis, on a rolling schedule throughout the year, after mutual discernment by the candidate, our deacon, and priests.

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NEW PRO-LIFE COORDINATOR

The whole community would like to thank Rory (Aurora) Miller for serving as the coordinator of Pro-Life activities for the Oratory for the past several years. Rory has done a great job leading the Oratory's involvement in fostering the culture of life. She has elected to step down from this position and we are in need of a new volunteer coordinator.

The duties of the position in its current configuration include:

- Attends diocesan pro-life meetings at Rigali Center.
- Coordinates 40 Days for Life twice each year.
- Goes to monthly meetings at the pro-life Advocacy group.
- Gathers information about upcoming Pro-Life events and submits this for posting and publication at the Oratory of Ss. Gregory and Augustine.

The new coordinator is encouraged to explore other avenues for the Oratory community to remain involved in and part of the Pro-Life efforts of the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

If you are interested, please contact the rector, Msgr. Morris (rector@oratorysga.org). In advance, thank you for your consideration and generosity.

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RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

For those in our community who are new to the Traditional Latin Mass, when you approach the altar rail for holy communion it is the custom to begin filling in the altar rail at the far right near St.

Sexagesima

Joseph's altar and fill in the rail until its end at the Marian altar. This practice is not impacted by which side of the Church you are seated. You are allowed, and encouraged, to switch sides in order to keep the communion line moving. This is particularly important when there are two sacred ministers distributing Holy Communion. So too, do not overly delay approaching the rail waiting for others to return to their pews. If everyone moves with attention to what is happening, there should be a flow of movement between those departing the altar rail and those approaching the altar rail. Also, for daily Holy Mass: please kneel at the rail only where the houseling cloth has been prepared for communion. Please keep in mind that we should not keep the Lord waiting but moving with grace and deliberation to the altar rail to receive our Eucharistic Lord.

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NEW FAMILIES for JANUARY (alphabetical order)

A warm welcome to our new parishioners!

- Owen Bruns
- Barbara Cardona
- Molly Laiben
- Dan Leonardi
- Christian Reller
- The Terry Family ~ Jake & Amy, Simeon and Seraphina
- The Wilcox Family ~ Brennan & Emma
- Brendan Wilmarth

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PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

In your charity, please pray for the following members of the Oratory who are ill: Mary Jane Bolte; Amanda Camarillo, daughter of Gregory & Nancy Latham; Heath Cheaney, son of Michael & Jaime; Jeanmarie DeCoster; Donna Hagan; Dotty Kuhlmann, mother of Donna Mueller; Mary McMahan; Kim Morgan; Donna Mueller; Michael Norfleet, son of Marsha Norfleet; Elizabeth Ryan; Mary Joseph Schenk, daughter of Nicholas & Elaine; Patrick Schneider; Sylvester Soldinie; Caleb & Sheila Ten Eyck; Lara Trudell, daughter of Sharon and Jim Alexander; Renee Weidner; and Msgr. Witt.

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PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

- Robert Anthony, father of Jeanmarie DeCoster
- Sheryl Ann Gibbs, wife of Jeff Gibbs
- Andrew Richard "Andy" Gilfoil, brother of Joe Gilfoil
- Shane Kiser, husband of Maggie Kiser

USHERS' SCHEDULE

Sunday, 8 February

6:30 am Chris Bauman*, Brayden Bauman

8:00 am Kip Babington*, Jeff Martin, Michael Nelson, Kenny Buyle

10:00 am Brandon Roberts*, Robert Morgan, Jordan Hermann, Mark Scheer

Sunday, 15 February

6:30 am Jim Alexander*, Evan Adair

8:00 am Jeff Martin*, Michael Nelson, Kenny Buyle, Terry Conway

10:00 am Robert Morgan*, Jordan Hermann, Mark Scheer, Zach Morley

Sunday, 22 February

6:30 am Brayden Bauman*, Chris Bauman

8:00 am Michael Nelson*, Kenny Buyle, Terry Conway, Ken Catalano

10:00 am Jordan Hermann*, Mark Scheer, Zach Morley, Jesse Hermann

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BULLETIN COVER: DANIEL AMONG THE EXILES – FROM GUSTAVE DORE'S BIBLE ENGRAVINGS

This week's bulletin cover shows the prophet Daniel mourning the loss of Sion during the Babylonian exile. The Church, the interpreter of the sacred Scriptures, often speaks to us of two places, which correspond with these two times of St. Agustine [time here on earth and time in Heaven]. These two places are Babylon and Jerusalem. Babylon is the image of this world of sin, in the midst whereof the Christian has to spend his years of probation; Jerusalem is the heavenly country, where he is to repose after all his trials. The people of Israel, whose whole history is but one great type of the human race, was banished from Jerusalem and kept in bondage in Babylon. Now, this captivity, which kept the Israelites exiles from Sion, lasted seventy years; and it is to express this mystery, as Alcuin, Amalarius, Ivo of Chartres, and all the great liturgists tell us, that the Church fixed the number of seventy for the days of expiation. It is true, there are but sixty-three days between Septuagesima and Easter; but the Church, according to the style so continually used in the sacred Scriptures, uses the round number instead of the literal and precise one. – From *The Liturgical Year*, volume IV, by Dom Prosper Guéranger, O.S.B.

+ Altar Server Schedule: February 2026 +

Date	Time	MC at High Mass / Acolyte at Low Mass	Thurifer	Acolyte 1	Acolyte 2
8 February 2026	6:30	Michael Norfleet			
	8:00	Joseph Blum			
	10:00	Philip Petrick	Paul Keys	Kolbe Grizzle	Stefan Noble
15 February 2026	6:30	Jack Ryan			
	8:00	Peter Blum			
	10:00	Sebastian Petrick	Joseph Fowler	Charles Fowler	Sean Kenney
22 February 2026	6:30	Ben Schubert			
	8:00	Benedict Armesto			
	10:00	Peter Blum	Thomas Koschmeder	Cabhan Ten Eyck	Joseph Sinak

FIRST FRIDAY/FIRST SATURDAY

6 January 2026	6:30 pm	John Morgan	Thomas Koschmeder	Cabhan Ten Eyck	Theodore Grizzle
7 January 2026	8:15 am	Joseph Noble	Levi Garvey	Elijah Garvey	Stefan Noble

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WELLSPRING OF TRADITION:

The Season of Septuagesima comprises the three weeks immediately preceding Lent. It forms one of the principal divisions of the Liturgical Year, and is itself divided into three parts, each part corresponding to a week: the first is called *Septuagesima*; the second, *Sexagesima*; the third, *Quinquagesima*.

All three are named from their numerical reference to Lent, which, in the language of the Church, is called *Quadragesima*, - that is, *Forty*, - because the great Feast of Easter is prepared for by these holy exercises of *Forty Days*. The words *Quinquagesima*, *Sexagesima*, and *Septuagesima*, tell us of the same great Solemnity as looming in the distance, and as being the great object towards which the Church would have us now begin to turn all our thoughts, and desires, and devotion.

The number seven is the basis of all these mysteries. Let us now meditate on the doctrine hid under the symbols of her Liturgy. And first, let us listen to St. Augustine, who thus gives us the clue to the whole of our Season's mysteries. "There are two times," says the Holy Doctor: "one which is *now*, and is spent in the temptations and tribulations of this life; the other which shall be *then*, and shall be spent in eternal security and joy. In figure of these, we celebrate two periods: the time '*before Easter*' and the time '*after Easter*.' That which is '*before Easter*,' signifies the sorrow of this present life; that which is '*after Easter*,' the blessedness of our future state. Hence it is, that we spend the first in fasting and prayer; and in the second, we give up our fasting, and give ourselves to praise." [Enarrations; *Psalm clviii.*.]

The Church, the interpreter of the Sacred Scriptures, often speaks to us of two *places*, which correspond with these two *times* of St. Augustine. These two places are *Babylon* and *Jerusalem*. *Babylon* is the image of this world of sin, in the midst whereof the Christian has to spend his years of probation; *Jerusalem* is the heavenly country, where he is to repose after all his trials. The people of Israel, whose whole history is but one great type of the human race, was banished from *Jerusalem* and kept in bondage in *Babylon*.

Now, this captivity, which kept the Israelites exiles from *Sion*, lasted seventy years; and it is to express this mystery, as Alcuin, Amalarius, Ivo of Chartres, and all the great Liturgists tell us, that the Church fixed the number of *Seventy* for the days of expiation. It is true, there are but sixty-three days between *Septuagesima* and *Easter*; but the Church, according to the style so continually used in the Sacred Scriptures, uses the round number instead of the literal and precise one.

The duration of the world itself, according to the ancient Christian tradition, is divided into seven ages. The human race must pass through seven Ages before the dawning of the Day of eternal life. The first Age included the time from the creation of Adam to Noah; the second begins with Noah and the renovation of the earth by the Deluge, and ends with the vocation of Abraham; the third opens with this first formation of God's chosen people, and continues as far as Moses, through whom God gave the Law; the fourth consists of the period between Moses and David, in whom the house of *Juda* received the kingly power; the fifth is formed of the years, which passed between David's reign and the captivity of *Babylon*, inclusively; the sixth dates from the return of the Jews to *Jerusalem*, and takes us on as far as the Birth of our Saviour. Then, finally, comes the seventh Age; it starts with the rising of this merciful Redeemer, the Sun of Justice, and is to continue till the dread coining of the Judge of the living and the dead. These are the Seven great divisions of Time; after which, Eternity.

In order to console us in the midst of the combats, which so thickly beset our path, the Church, like a beacon shining amidst the darkness of this our earthly abode, - shows us another *Seven*, which is to succeed the one we are now preparing to pass through. After the *Septuagesima* of mourning, we shall have the bright *Easter* with its *Seven weeks* of gladness, foreshadowing the happiness and bliss of *Heaven*. After having fasted with our *Jesus*, and suffered with him, the day will come when we shall rise together with him, and our hearts shall follow him to the highest heavens, and then after a brief interval, we shall feel descending upon us the *Holy Ghost*, with his *Seven Gifts*. The celebration of all these wondrous joys will take us *Seven weeks*, as the great Liturgists observe in their interpretation of the Rites of the Church: the seven joyous weeks from *Easter* to *Pentecost* will not be too long for the future glad *Mysteries*, which, after all, will be but figures of a still gladder future, the future of *eternity*.

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~ 02/01/2026 ~	
Weekly Collection Total	\$ 11,784.75
Online Giving	\$ 13,266.99
Total	\$ 25,051.74
Needed	\$ 16,800.00
Year to Date Total	\$ 585,388.45

*Our Lady of Walsingham, intercede for us who have recourse to thee!
Ss. Gregory and Augustine, pray for us!*

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