

COMUNIDAD CATÓLICA de ST. GREGORY-OUR LADY OF FATIMA

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
CUARTO DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

December 20, 2015 ~ 20 de Diciembre 2015



BLESSED CHRISTMAS

FELÍZ NAVIDAD

from your Parish Staff ~ del Equipo Pastoral

Fr. Tom, Sr. Guadalupe

Anne Gurecki, Vickie Oomen, June Howe

Linda Foster, Mary Lorenz

MASS SCHEDULE ~ LA MISA

Saturday	5:00 pm	Shelby
Sunday	9:30 am	Hart
Domingo	11:30 am	Hart; Español

RECONCILIATION

Saturday	4:00 pm	Shelby
By appointment		(231) 873-2660

BAPTISM~ MARRIAGE~ANOINTING

Please call the Parish Office (231) 873-2660

BAUTISMOS~ MATRIMONIOS

Por favor llame a la oficina (231) 873-2660



PARISH OFFICE ~ OFICINA PARROQUIAL: Open Tues-Fri 9:30-3:00
316 S Peach Ave, Hart 49420; 231-873-2660; www.stgregoryathart.org
Fr. Tom Bolster, Pastor/Párroco tom@stgregoryathart.org
Anne Gurecki, Business Manager/Negócios anne@stgregoryathart.org
Vickie Oomen, Bookkeeper/Secretary parish@stgregoryathart.org

HISPANIC MINISTRY ~ MINISTERIO HISPANO

Sister Guadalupe Moreno 301-1899 gmoreno@dioceseofgrandrapids.org

FAITH FORMATION TEAM

Linda Foster	873-3071	reled@stgregoryathart.org
Sr. Guadalupe Moreno	301-1899	
Mary Lorenz	861-2475	

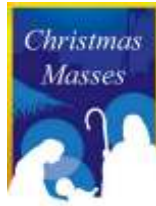
BREAD OF LIFE FOOD PANTRY Wednesdays 3-5:00; 11 Washington St., Hart

Our Lady of Fatima is located at 1372 S Oceana Dr, Shelby
St. Gregory is located at 316 S Peach Ave, Hart

LITURGY ~ LITÚRGIA
Dec 21-27 de Diciembre

Tues/Martes
11:00 am OLF Mass of Resurrection for John Bell

Thurs/Jueves: CHRISTMAS EVE
4:00 pm OLF Mass
7:00 pm StG Mass/Misa Bilingüe



Fri/Viernes: Christmas Day
9:00 am St Joseph, Weare
10:00 am St James, Montague

Sat/Sabado
5:00 pm OLF Henry & Lillian Lehman

Sun/Domingo
9:30 am StG Jane Cooper
11:30 am St G Parish Family

Thurs/Jueves: Dec 31 Vigil-Solemnity of Mary
Santa Maria, Madre de Dios
5:15 pm OLF Mass/Misa Bilingüe

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE/
MINISTERIOS DE LA MISA**

Dec 24 de Diciembre

Ministers of the Word/Lectura

4:00 pm Linda Foster
7:00 pm Anne Gurecki, Reyna Ramirez

Ministers of the Eucharist/Comunión

4:00 pm R Setlak, D Wells, R Pochyla
7:00 pm G Merten, A Contreras, P Morales

Altar Servers/Acólitos

7:00 pm Diego Rivera, Enrique Cruz

Ministers of Hospitality/Bienvenida

4:00 pm S Fell, K Kludy, J Wade
7:00 pm Olga Escamilla y familia

Dec 26/27 de Diciembre

Ministers of the Word/Lectura

5:00 pm Cathy Schouten
9:30 am Marsha Mahynski
11:30 am Olga Guzman

Ministers of the Eucharist/Comunión

5:00 pm D Carrier, H Schouten, M Sanford
9:30 am M Baranski, W Dold, S Hedinger
11:30 am L Ybarra, M Barco, E DeBlas

Altar Servers/Acólitos

11:30 am Adrian Briones, Lorenzo Martinez

Ministers of Hospitality/Bienvenida

9:30 am C Aerts, L VanZoeren
11:30 am Efigenio Barron y Familia

Ushers/Colecta y Ofrendas

9:30 am A Bosse, T Bosse, Aerts, VanderZanden
11:30 am Gustavo DeBlas y Familia

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Gene Schaner, Jim Johnson, David Adameczyk, Donald Earhart Jr., Deana Lenon, Ed Lathrop, Jeanne Strzyz, Tom Merten, Agnes Kokx, John Bell, Sally Morden, Victoriano Herevia, Sean Morrissey, Ann Herrygers, Heather Swiech, Dennis Hedinger, Mary Beth Latona, Don Hopper, Mike Fuller, Fidencio Vasquez Jr, Oralia Davila, Bryan Cramer, Joseph Frontiera, Richard Davila. Daniel Crawford, Donna Manisfield, Paula Tibbitts, Wendy Baxter, Julie LaPree

STEWARDSHIP

Dec 12/13 de Diciembre

Envelopes \$2,065.00
Loose 1,045.40
Total \$3,110.40



PARISH CALENDAR - CALENDARIO

Dec 20-27 de Diciembre

Sun/Domingo	StG	12:30 pm	Church Decorating
Mon/Lunes	StG	8-9:00 am	Prayer Group- 206 S Peach, Hart
	OLF	10:00	Quilt Club/potluck/Christmas Party
	StG		No Faith Formation
Wed/Miércoles	StG & OLF		No Faith Formation
		3-5:00 pm	Food Pantry, 11 Washington, Hart
Thurs/Jueves	StG	7:00 pm	No Bible Study

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION classes are on break until Monday, Jan 4.

QUILT CLUB meets at OLF on Mon, Dec 21, 10:00 am with noon Christmas potluck and party. Call Mort Wiegand at 873-2675 for more info.

BIBLE STUDY is on break and resumes on Thurs, Jan 14 at 7:00 pm for 12 weeks. Commentary: Israel Part II will be the guide. Cost for the book is \$15.00. Call Sharon at 873-4253 by Jan 3 to order your book. All are invited to take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about God's Word.



- Thanks to all who donated delicious goodies for our rectory open house. A good time was had by all and I enjoyed sharing the Spirit of Christmas with the many who came by. Special thanks to our hostesses, Helen Foster and Anne Gurecki, and to Vickie & John Oomen for the beautiful tree.

- Thanks to Harold Schaner, Ralph Dold, Mike VanAgtamael and Hector Rosalez who, in the midst of a busy season, have been wonderful in completing some projects at St G before the snow flies.

Fr Tom

PARISH OFFICE will be closed Dec 24/25 and Jan 1. Bulletin deadline both weeks is Tuesday noon. Safe and blessed season to all.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES are available in the back of church. If you do not find your envelopes, or if any corrections are needed, please call the parish office at 873-2660. Also, if you would like a **statement of your 2015 contributions**, please call the office. THANKS for your support.

PARISH DIRECTORY: If you do not want your address and/or phone number included in the new parish directory, please notify the parish office at 873-2660.

ANNUAL REPORT is available in the back of both churches.



CHRISTMAS MASSES are being offered for our bulletin memorials: Brian L. Schaner, Anita Anderson, Wayne Richard Wells, Marivel Brandel, Familias Davila y Herrera, Lucy Vasquez y Familia, Jeff & Fran Aerts, Ralph & Ev Wenner, Lee & VanZoeren Families, Jerry Dennert.

SHUT INS: MIDNIGHT MASS from St Andrew's Cathedral will be televised on Fox 17 (check your local listings).

K OF C CHRISTMAS POTLUCK: The annual Christmas potluck is on Sun, Dec 20 at 2:00. A ham and a turkey will be provided. Members and prospective members are invited.



GRACIAS a todos que asistieron a la fiesta en mi casa y los que prepararon la comida. *Padre Tomás*

CLASES DE EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA: Las clases comenzarán nuevamente el lunes, 04 de enero de 2016.

OFICINA PAROQUIAL: Cerrado los días 24 y 25 de diciembre y 1 de enero.



A family celebrated Christmas every year with a birthday party for Jesus. An extra chair of honor at the table became the family's reminder of Jesus' presence. A cake with candles, along with the singing of "Happy Birthday" expressed the family's joy in Jesus' presence. One year on Christmas afternoon a visitor to the home asked the five-year-old girl, "Did you get everything

you wanted for Christmas?" After a moment's hesitation, she answered, "No, but it's not my birthday. It's Jesus' birthday!"

Since it is Jesus who gives real meaning to our celebrations, Jesus must be reborn in us each time we celebrate Christmas. Hence, let us leave "room in the inn" of our hearts for Jesus to be reborn in our lives. Let us remember the lines of Alexander Pope: "*What do I profit if Jesus is born in thousands of cribs all over the world during this Christmas, if He is not born in my heart?*" So let us pray for the grace of Jesus' birth in each one of us this Christmas, bringing us love, mercy, kindness and compassion to give away. Let us help all those around us to experience the newly-born Savior – Jesus within us - as sharing love in the form of compassionate words, unconditional forgiveness, selfless service, merciful deeds and overflowing generosity.

An 11-year-old boy with cancer lost all the hair on his head as a result of chemotherapy treatment. When the time came for him to return to school, he and his parents experimented with hats, wigs, and bandanas to try to conceal his baldness. They finally settled on a baseball cap, but the boy still feared the taunts he would receive for looking "different." Mustering up courage, he went to school wearing his cap - and discovered to his great surprise that all of his friends had shaved their heads to share their solidarity with their friend. It was their way of expressing their love and sympathy. No wonder God became human to express God's own love for mankind!

Some children were asked what love is. The responses were quite interesting and instructive for us adults. One said, "Love is when my mommy makes a cup of coffee for my daddy and takes a little taste before she gives it to him to make sure it tastes okay." Another said, "Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you've left him alone all day." Another response was, "You really shouldn't say, 'I love you' unless you really mean it, but if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget." One boy said, "When someone loves you, the way they call your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth." And finally seven-year-old Bobby said, "Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen."

Indeed, love was born on Christmas day. May your hearts and homes, your families and friends, your town, your county and your world be enhanced by you in your sharing of Christ's love.

Peace, Fr. Tom

Las Posadas

Domingo 20, 7:00pm	Dale y Estela Krause	3737 Jefferson, Pentwater
Lunes 21, 7:00pm	Juan y Rosario Cortes	625 State St, Hart
Martes 22, 7:00pm	Oceana Hispanic Ctr	109 Washington, Hart
Miercoles 23, 7:00pm	Luis y Anita Torres	510 Johnson St, Hart
Jueves 24, 6:30pm	St Gregory	316 Peach St, Hart
7:00pm	MISA BILINGUE DE NAVIDAD	

Son las 7:00 p. en Chicago, en diciembre. El clima está helado. Mientras tiemblo del frío, me uno a la gente que se aglomera en la esquina de la avenida Ashland y la calle 44. Entre ellos se encuentra Carlitos, un niño de 6 o 7 años que porta una luminaria. Vamos a iniciar la Posada.



Como soy de Ecuador, no sé mucho sobre las Posadas, que son principalmente una tradición mexicana. Aun así, mientras más participo de ellas, más me doy cuenta de que las Posadas son eucarísticas.

Pensemos en Carlitos. Él está creciendo en medio de fuegos cruzados relacionados con pandillas, familias rotas, pobreza y un sistema de escuelas públicas que deja mucho que desear. estadísticamente, él está destinado al fracaso. Va a necesitar mucho valor, mentores y todos los recursos proactivos disponibles, para ayudarlo a salir de ese círculo de pobreza en el que está atrapado. Ahora, sin embargo, es tiempo de la Posada; así es que ahí está, llevando la luminaria con orgullo y responsabilidad.

Su luminaria es un palo de escoba con una vela en la punta, protegida en un marco de plástico. En la Posada, la luminaria representa la estrella de Belén que guía a la gente hacia el Niño Jesús. Carlitos nos está guiando hacia el Niño Jesús.

Mientras camino con los parroquianos y miro alrededor, veo jóvenes y ancianos, ricos y pobres, estudiantes y desertores escolares, pandilleros, gente vistiendo aun sus uniformes de la escuela y trabajo, etc. Todos estamos caminado. Todos tenemos frío. Estamos buscando posada, un lugar para pasar la noche, como lo hicieron María y José en Belén. Todos estamos buscando aquel lugar, aquella paz y aquella fuerza para seguir adelante en la vida; y esta noche Carlitos nos está guiando.

Las Posadas, según la escritora Marcela Hede, son una recreación del peregrinaje de María y José en búsqueda de un lugar para pasar la noche. Las Posadas se originaron en México, probablemente en el siglo XVI, cuando los misioneros franciscanos encontraron cómo recrear de manera experiencial el viaje de los Peregrinos Santos; ellos son pobres, indigentes, inmigrantes y pronto van a tener un hijo. Estadísticamente ellos también están destinados al fracaso; ¿pero, lo están?

María, José y el Bebé Jesús a punto de nacer encuentran un lugar, una posada, en un establo. Precisamente allí nace el Hijo de Dios, que se encarna y habita entre su gente incluso en medio de la adversidad.

Un sentido de esperanza nos embarga y nos recuerda que todo va a estar bien, cuando entramos a la casa o al salón parroquial: adentro está abrigado, oliendo a chocolate caliente (o champurrado) y pan dulce, y decorado con luces de Navidad brillantes y una piñata. Una vez adentro, rezamos, partimos el pan, jugamos y cantamos, y recordamos la razón por la que estamos allí: Jesús se convierte en uno de nosotros.

Mateo 18:20 dice que cuando dos o tres se reúnen en el nombre de Jesús, allí está el Señor, haciendo que ese momento sea eucarístico. Cuando nos reunimos para la Posada, Jesús está entre nosotros haciendo que ese sencillo momento se convierta en un encuentro eucarístico.

Por los nueve días de las Posadas, Carlitos ha portado la luminaria con mucho amor y devoción. Viviendo en un barrio pobre y violento, Carlitos encuentra esperanza, alegría y sentido de la vida gracias a devociones como las Posadas. Quién sabe; tal vez esta costumbre pueda ser uno de esos recursos proactivos que lo va a ayudar a salir de las estadísticas de las cuales Carlitos es parte... por ahora.

Por Byron Macías, c.m.f.

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