Pancakes & Ashes
St. Gregory’s & Watercrest
How are your Lenten devotions coming along? Have you found yourself faltering, unable to maintain the burden of an overly ambitious undertaking? Are you not feeling challenged at all, with your devotion not making an impact on your day to day life? Did you forget to make any Lenten resolutions at all? Have you neglected praying more and reading scripture more? If you answered yes to any of these questions, never fear; there is still an entire month before the celebration of Easter. You have plenty of time to reassess what you have taken on and either increase or decrease your disciplines to suit the reality of your situation. There are Wednesday Mass and teachings and Friday Stations of the Cross that you can attend to properly observe this penitential season.

With that said, I now want to highlight an opportunity for you to set aside those Lenten disciplines for a rare opportunity to feast in the middle of this season of fasting. On March 14, we will be celebrating the feast of St. Gregory the Great, our patron (transferred from March 12). Unfortunately, I will be in the Holy Land during this celebration, but I encourage everyone to come out for Mass and the potluck that will follow. No need to follow a light, meatless supper, bring meats and desserts and make this a joyous occasion. This patronal feast is a chance for us to give thanks to God for the witness of the Communion of Saints and St. Gregory in particular.

Finally, please pray for me and our group of pilgrims heading to Israel from March 6-15. I just found out that the Church of the Holy Sepulcher has closed its doors in protest of a tax being enforced by the City of Jerusalem on various church owned properties. Please pray that this protest will not continue and that we will be able to experience this holy site. Pray for our safe travel and that this will be a truly meaningful trip.

Fr. Horton+

Sunday sermons are recorded, each Sunday, and archived at http://stgregorysmansfield.org/sermons by 11:00 AM

Mark Your March Calendar

02 ~ Stations of the Cross, 6:30 pm
03 ~ Men’s Group, 8 am
          Tai Chi, 10 am
05 ~ Preschool Board Meeting, 6 pm
06-15 ~ Holy Land Tour
07 ~ Lenten Soup Supper following Holy Eucharist
09 ~ Stations of the Cross, 6:30 pm
10 ~ 12 ~ Spring Break begins (continues all week)
14 ~ St. Gregory Patronal Feast + Potluck following
16 ~ Stations of the Cross, 6:30 pm
17 ~ Pickle Parade
20 ~ Vestry meeting, 6 pm
21 ~ Lenten Soup Supper following Holy Eucharist
23 ~ Stations of the Cross, 6:30 pm
24 ~ DHC, 10 am
25 ~ Palm Sunday (Donkey visit)
27 ~ Mass of Collegiality
28 ~ Holy Eucharist at Watercrest, 1 pm
29 ~ Maundy Thursday, 7 pm
          Altar of Repose, 8 am through Friday noon
30 ~ Stations of the Cross, 12 pm
          Good Friday, 7 pm
31 ~ Prayers, 10 am
          Easter Vigil, 8 am

May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercies of God, rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon

Ralph Walker, Jr.

SERVICE: 11 a.m., Saturday at St. Gregory Episcopal Church, Mansfield.
Ralph was born Nov. 26, 1921, to Ralph Henderson S. and Willie Knipp. He served in the Army in WWII.
He taught at colleges and universities in the U.S., South America, Middle East and Europe. He retired in 1986 and returned to Mansfield.
SURVIVORS: One niece; nephew; many cousins and friends.

Blessing Funeral Home
Mansfield, 817-473-8555
view and sign guestbook at
www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

March Birthdays
02 ~ Fran Jennings
10 ~ Jennifer Mowrer
15 ~ Betty Reed
19 ~ Phillip Brantley
21 ~ Mike Sabourin & Trice Edwards
23 ~ Sandy Townend
24 ~ Gene Motter & Nathalie O'dunze
25 ~ Anne Bressert

March Anniversaries
02 ~ Dan & Dee Lemser, 55th
26 ~ Roy & Linda Wirt, 42nd

New Members
Hightower, Tom & Meredith, 3102 Willowbrook Drive, Mansfield, Texas 76063
          Fr. Hightower, 817-266-9815 & TomHightower@prodigy.net
          Meredith, 817-313-0076, meredithhightower@hotmail.com
Sparkman, Sean and Anna Sparkman & children George and Ellen.
          7219 Neblina Dr., Grand Prairie, TX 75054
          Sean, 817-781-5274 & Sean.Sparkman@gmail.com
          Ann, 817-781-0095 & Anna.PISparkman@gmail.com
Daughters of the Holy Cross met on Sunday, February 18th, 2017. We have four new perspective candidates to join our Order. We began our meeting with Chapters 1, 2 and 3 of the DHC Study Manual. We had a wonderful discussion among all Daughters and perspective Daughters. Our next meeting of the DHC will be on Saturday, March 24th, at 10:00am in the Parrish Hall at St. Gregory’s.

Bernice Baldwin (new email = texasbaldwin51@gmail.com)

Fr. Hightower will say Mass on the 11th & 14th.

St. Gregory’s Patronal Feast is the evening of the 14th and will be followed by a Potluck Dinner.

Preschool Happenings

February was a month full of fun events at the preschool. Pre-K celebrated their 100th day of school. They made “100 day” hats, ate “100 ingredient” snacks and practiced counting to 100! We had a visit from the Tooth Fairy in honor of dental health month. A big thank you to Holly Horton and the Pediatric Dentistry office of Sullivan and Wright for coming out to teach the students about dental health.

All the classes enjoyed special treats and fun activities for Valentine’s day. Our upcoming Summer Camp program is now full with a waiting list! It’s hard to imagine some of the summer fun we have planned with the cold and wet weather we’ve been having, but we are certainly looking forward to it! Registration for the Fall has begun and we are filling quickly. Coming up in March the preschool will be having a spirit night at Panera Bread here in Mansfield. Be on the lookout for details to come soon, we would love to have the support of the Parish!

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**Order of St. Luke**

**The Gospel Train’s a’comin...**

A Christian needed to catch a train to get to somewhere they needed to get to. They had heard that trains sometimes, from time to time, run through the local station so off they went. Eagerly they walked down the hill, through the station entrance and onto the platform.

No train awaited them. They stared up the track to the right and down the track to the left but still no train arrived. In a little while they checked with the station clock, only to find they had been waiting for as much as three minutes and still no train came to catch them up.

Disillusioned, they left the station and turned for home. No sooner had they left the buildings behind than a train arrived. Finding no passengers, the saddened and disappointed train driver pulled the whistle and went on his way again. The Christian fell to thinking on the way home:

“These enthusiastic train spotters don’t really know what they’re talking about. I don’t know why they keep telling people like me that trains are often, if not always, coming through this way and collecting up those in need of some transport. Ah well, at least I can say that I took their advice and went to the station but nothing happened. I shan’t bother with that again!”

But those of us who know something of the railway system know full well that persistence is vital. It’s simply no good glancing at an empty platform and going home. The next train might come in four minutes and it might be four months, but come it certainly will.

In kingdom terms the same thing applies. We need healing but, as I have so often written and said before, God has no problem giving, no problem sending the trains. But we humans do have a particular problem - we will not persist. We have lost the art of receiving.

One significant difference between everyday Christians and Kingdom Walkers is that the latter have something called ‘Hope’. Church teaches us that we can all have a bit of that, we can all hope we get to heaven when we die. That’s a good solid theological piece of theory and is most probably correct. But it doesn’t necessarily get me a train when I need it today.

Kingdom Walkers are greatly blessed with a much more realistic hope. In fact it is so real that it has become ‘expectancy’. We are sure of it. It’s what the Church used to call ‘a sure and certain hope’. It will happen because it’s God’s will that it should happen.

When a kingdom Walker needs a Gospel healing train, or needs a train for a friend, we go to the platform and wait. Our needy friend may catch a train in the next minute but may not. So the Kingdom Walker, in our analogy, takes along with them some camping chairs and a picnic and stays there with the needy friend until the train arrives.

Friends, that could be minutes, hours, weeks, months, years but the Gospel Trains are a’comin. Even if our friend goes home disillusioned we can always offer to walk him or her down to the station again the next day, the next week and keep trying.

Why can’t the train turn up exactly when we want it? Why can’t healing appear the moment we pray for it? Dunno! This is one of those mysteries of life. Without mystery our God simply becomes a machine. We would then ask and he would then perform for us.

We can have all sorts of debates as to why some get healed immediately and some don’t but we never really know a definitive answer. So let’s keep going!

Keep pressing into God and he will always keep pressing into you.

Mike Endicott

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**Parish Life**

The Pickle Parade is in just a few weeks, March 17. Please come and join the fun. We will meet at the church. The Bradburn’s are furnishing the trailer and Tim and the men will help decorate. We need riders - church children, preschool children and grandchildren and adults. We are known as the bubble people and it is fun. Plan to join us that day.

Kathy Walker

Sharon, Harriet & Karyn sing soprano, Uche & Phillip do the bass, and the tenors are Tim and Phil. And, yes Cheri, she's singing the alto part - all by herself. Doesn't seem quite fair that she should have to carry the alto all by herself. Maybe there is a kind soul in our congregation that could join her. After all, we want to keep her smiling.

Imagine the grin on Jim’s face if we were to add another soprano, two additional bass, make that three, and what the heck, why not three additional altos. I am pretty sure that an additional tenor might be allowed.

Just saying, :-)

Everyone’s pictures are accepted.
This blank space is where I had planned to display yours.
# Our Clergy and Staff

“Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him”

John 13:16

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