Multiple Sclerosis Walk ~ On April 7, parishioner Maria Casamento participated in the annual Multiple Sclerosis Walk in Trinity Park, Fort Worth. The Walk raises funds for The National MS Society but just as important it is an opportunity for people who suffer from MS to rally and support each other. Maria benefits directly from funds raised at this event. This year, Maria was able to begin a new drug therapy because funds raised by the society made this new research possible. Also, she is continuing her training at a gym (at no charge for people with MS). Every year Maria is a top fund raiser and this year was no exception thanks in part to generous support from the St. Gregory’s community. The cold weather provided a challenge this year but Maria (and hubby Tony, right) proudly completed the walk.

Parish Life
The Parish Picnic is scheduled for May 12 at the Bradburns, 10am - 2pm. [2017 pictures]

A church-wide garage sale is scheduled for June 23, 7am-12pm. Bring your own tables and chairs, display your items for sale and man your own table(s).
Late this past month, GQ online posted a list of “21 Books You Don’t Have to Read” and shockingly, (and by that I mean not shockingly at all) the Bible made the list. All you have to do to understand the reviewer’s attitude toward the Bible and Christianity in general is read his first line. “The Holy Bible is rated very highly by all the people who supposedly live by it but who in actuality have not read it.” In this one sentence he paints Christians as hypocrites and liars, while mocking the most sacred text for some 2.2 billion people, over a quarter of the world’s population. He then goes on; “Those who have read it know there are some good parts, but overall it is certainly not the finest thing that man has ever produced.” As someone who has read it and strives to live by it (which is precisely how we do live by it), I guess I would have to agree that it is not the finest thing that man has ever produced, because it is not a product of human initiative, it is the written word of God, given to us by the divinely inspired minds and hands of those chosen by God. And as such, even if it were the poorest of God’s creations (which it is not), it would still far surpass any piece of literature that any human could produce.

The problem is that the reviewer has a very limited view of what it takes for something to be a literary masterpiece. The Bible is a collection of a wide variety of ancient literary genres. There is history, poetry, prose, wisdom, apocalypse, gospel, general letters, personal letters. And no, not every bit of it is a page turner, but neither are the county records down at the clerk’s office. That doesn’t make them any less important or fascinating (just ask any number of your fellow parishioners with a love for genealogy). He also ignores the massive impact the Bible has had on subsequent art, music, literature, idiom, and culture. From William Shakespeare to Charles Dickens, the narrative of the Bible has inspired countless authors who have created works that, even by this reviewer’s standards, would be considered among the greatest masterpieces. There are hundreds of everyday phrases introduced by the Bible. The impact of the Bible is impossible to overstate and ignorance of it, even simply as a piece of literature, is a great deficiency.

This review presents such a narrow-minded take on the structure and purpose of scripture that it would be laughable if it weren’t included in this list published by a long-standing, somewhat respectable, international publication. Unfortunately, it just highlights how trendy it has become to belittle Christians in the public forum. And, in a culture where anything and everything can be found to offend someone, causing outrage and inspiring hashtags, it seems one of the few groups who are not allowed to be offended are Christians. But, it is not our job to be offended, it is our job to be biblically literate in order that we can hear arguments like this and easily dismiss them for the nonsense that they are. The Bible is far and away the most influential book ever created and anyone telling you don’t need to read it clearly has an alternate agenda.

Fr. Horton+

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

May Anniversaries
10 ~ Heinz & Nancy Liedke
21 ~ Jake & Jennifer Mowrer

Sr. Warden

April has been a very busy month. Holy Week and Easter services have kept most of our Guilds on their toes. The Altar Guild responded with setting up for all the worship services, changing the hangings from purple (Lent) to red (Palm Sunday) to dramatic black (Good Friday) to white for Eastertide. The LEM’s and readers pitched for all the extra services also. The Flower Guild provided wonderful flowers, after the 6 weeks of bare vases during Lent. The newly formed Garden Guild has cleaned up the flower beds and planted new flowers. The choir continues to lead the congregation with a Joyful Noise (continues to look for more voices). The Nursery now has a sound system so they can enjoy the Sunday services, while tending to the little ones. (Thank you, Trice)

Sunday School’s new outreach gathered 3 baskets of canned meats for the Presbyterian Food Bank. The Tuesday morning and evening Bible/Book studies continue weekly. The Men’s Group is meeting twice a month at Rosa’s with attendance picking up. We provide transportation for residents of Water Crest for Sunday Mass. Daughters of the Holy Cross are doing a study/discernment for 3 new members. If I have forgotten anyone, it is unintentional!

Upcoming Events: Parish Picnic at the Bradford’s on May 12.

Work has started on the Fall Festival. Planning is well underway for St. Gregory’s 40th Anniversary Celebration in September. We have a group compiling the history of our church as well as a Newcomers Brochure.

Any Parish member is welcome to join us on any of these Guilds. I will be happy to answer any questions, comments or complaints you may have.

With Christ, all things are possible.

Cheri

Mark Your April Calendar
02 ~ Monthly Potluck following Mass
05 ~ Men’s Group, 8 am
07 ~ Church Protection Workshop in Carrolton, Tx
08 ~ Preschool Staff Meeting, 6 pm
09 ~ Holy Eucharist at Watercrest, 1 pm
12 ~ Parish Picnic at the Bradburn’s, 10 am - 2 pm
15 ~ Vestry, 6 pm
17 ~ Last day of preschool, graduation at 6:30 pm
19 ~ Men’s Group, 8 am
20 ~ Last day of Sunday School for summer
23 ~ Holy Eucharist at Watercrest, 1 pm
28 ~ Office closed
Preschool Happenings

Lots happening at the preschool during these last six weeks of our school year.

A big “THANK YOU” to everyone who came out to Spirit Night at Panera Bread. It is always fun to do events involving both the church and the preschool. We had over 36 families participate and we will be receiving a check for 20% of those sales (not a bad deal for just showing up and enjoying a good meal!).

We hosted our annual Trike-a-thon to raise money for St. Jude’s Children’s hospital on April 19th. We raised over $700 this year to donate to the hospital. This was a school wide event participation from all classes!

Our younger classes put on our annual Spring Program. They performed several songs and finger plays as well as recited the Lord’s Prayer. Everyone did a wonderful job and the families thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Thank you to all our wonderful teachers for their dedication and time spent rehearsing and preparing their students for the program.

Looking ahead to the month of May: We will be working with the Vestry to provide our teachers with goodies for Teacher Appreciation the week of May 7th-11th. We will host our Pre-K graduation ceremony on the 17th.

May Birthdays
01 ~ Nancy Liedke
08 ~ Heinz Liedke
11 ~ Margeaux Horton
13 ~ Sophia Bulls, Tom Turner & Karyn Vela
16 ~ Daniel Lopez
17 ~ Rebecca Jennings & Carol McKenna
18 ~ Elizabeth Bressert & Lisa Grubenhoff
20 ~ Jane Zavala
25 ~ Tim Cannon
27 ~ David Smith

May Memorials
Heinz & Nancy Liedke ~ BD & Ann
Tony & Maria Casamento
Tim & Cannon ~ Thanksgiving Paige’s Grad.
Cheri Davis ~ Memory of Ernest

Jr. Warden’s Report

Spring is here and the annual battle with the weeds is going well. With the help from the ladies in the Garden Guild we’re gaining ground on them. We added some Easter lilies in Sally’s Garden and re-located our hidden angel by the fountain pond.
The Daughters of the Holy Cross met on Saturday, April 28th, 2018, at St. Gregory’s. We continued our DHC Study for the new candidates, who are Anne Bressert, Candice Griffin and Nathalie Odunze. Our next meeting will be on Saturday, May 19th, at 10:00 am at St. Gregory’s.

Bishop Iker personally invites you to accept “The Bishop Iker Challenge,” at the Squaw Valley golf course on June 1st. Proceeds benefit Camp Crucis & provide scholarships for kids who would not otherwise be able to attend camp. See Tim Cannon or Steve Hawkins for details.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

You are needed to help “Feed The Kids For Summer.” Every Wednesday beginning May 23, 2018 and continuing until August 8, 2018.

- **10 AM until 11 AM** - Unload food from truck and take into the building.
- **6 PM until 7 PM** - Work in an assembly line to put food items in bags. Replenish assembly line from food storage area. Allocate bags for each food pantry. Load bags into food pantry vehicles.

Location: Mansfield Cares, Warehouse, north side of 150 S. 6th Ave. (directly behind the Linda Nix Care Center, 901 W. Broad Street)

Contact volunteer coordinator Suzy Herman, suzyherman@hotmail.com.

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Battling On

This is such an instant, quick grabbing, go getting world we have to live in today. If we want something then we expect to get it and not wait too long for it.

Shopping is a time consuming bug bear so we go online. Writing letters is a drag so we email. Even talking with people is a bit of a bind so we just text them. It’s all quick and go get stuff. We just want to stick it in the box and jump onto the next thing. Life is all a zipper do-dar go go go!

Does the same apply to healing? We’d certainly like it if it did. After all, we say to ourselves, if God is all love and God is all power and Jesus never told anyone to wait weeks, months, years before he could heal them then why can’t it all be instant stuff? Why can’t we pray and see all heaven break loose around us?

The answer to that is that all things are possible for those who believe. But it often doesn’t happen that way.

Why not? One thing I know; if we spend time wondering about the ‘why not’ then this is what happens - the doubt increases, the aerial comes gliding down*, we soon give up on God to heal altogether.

Be persistent! Read the story of the battle of Jericho again. Read about Naama the leper. See Jesus teaching it in his parables about the persistent widow and the man that kept knocking on the next door in the middle of the night. And watch the Lord persisting in healing with the blind man who only got as far as seeing trees. Keep on going with the Lord, keep asking and, above all, keep telling him how wonderful he is to have organized the cross for us. It got our sinful covering out of the way. It means he can at last get to us and tell him, over and over again, every day, that your healing can get through to you from heaven and all because of what Jesus has done.

That’s real thanksgiving. That’s real glory giving. That’s what brings the kingdom near.

Be loved - Mike Endicott

Heinz Liedke

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*Mike is actually talking about an automatic car antenna, meaning our expectancy lowers (diminishes)
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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