



We, the  
community of  
St. Gregory  
Barbarigo, are  
called forth in  
baptism to  
follow the  
mission of  
Jesus  
to teach,  
to love, and  
to serve.

*-Vision Statement  
St. Gregory  
Barbarigo  
Catholic Church*

## We Are Listening!

What do you want from St. Gregory's Parish? That's a powerful question that you've been asked a number of times. Each time it's been asked, you've responded with sincere answers. You hoped your answers would be used to help St. Gregory's create a church where you felt involved, invited and engaged. What's happened to your suggestions? Did anybody read them?

The answer is yes. We've spent many hours looking over the information that so many of you have shared. What we found was a parish full of people who are excited about the future.

You spoke.

- You said we need to provide our youth with a fun, exciting way to socialize, learn and act on their faith.
- You said we need to welcome everyone to our parish and help them feel that they belong to our parish family.
- You said we need to provide faith formation programming and social programming for all members of our parish; youth, young adults, young families, singles, and seniors.
- You said we need to act on our faith by focusing on prayer, peace and social justice issues.
- You said we need to look toward our future, learn from our past and grow together.

We're listening.

St. Gregory's is a strong, excited parish with a vision of growth! Your words aren't just words anymore. We're helping them become a living testament of what we have always known St. Gregory's could be.

*- Your Pastoral Council*

*We have gathered the information and now is the time to put it into action.*

*-Mary Wilmes  
Pastoral Council President*

## Now Is the Time

St. Gregory's parish has arrived at an exciting time of growth and development. Pastoral Council member, Theresa Wilson explains "The needs of our Church Community are many and varied, to the point that for a few implementers, the task of serving all is overwhelming. The entire laity needs to play an active role in the works of our church, benefiting from and contributing to

*the spiritual and social aspects of the community. As stated in the 1985 Church Magazine regarding Vatican II Reform: "In a period of diminishing vocations to the clerical and religious life, it is urgent that lay persons assume greater responsibility*

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# Our History

*St. Gregory's history is one of a rich and challenging diversity, united in one parish family. Some highlights in our 144 year history include:*

- The Rev. John Hennessy from St. Joseph officiated at the dedication ceremony on **October 14, 1860**. The church was named Mary Immaculate, but was later shortened to St. Mary's.
- Fr. Constantine Hergenroether, the first resident pastor, starts a school in **1869**.
- In **1873**, Benedictine Fathers of Conception begin to send priests to St. Mary's.
- On **October 18, 1879**, the basement of St. Mary's church was completed and dedicated as a church. Mass is said in the basement until the church was finished in **June, 1887**. Its location on S. Davis St.
- On **November 1, 1881**, Fr. Pembroke said the first Mass in St. Patrick's Parish in Union Hall located at First and Buchanan Street. The congregation numbered about 70 families.
- In **November, 1899** St. Patrick's church is completed after initial work was started in **September, 1898**.
- In **1910**, with Fr. Niemann supervising, work was begun on a school and convent at St. Patrick's'. Classes started in **1911**.
- On **Thanksgiving Day, 1910**, St. Mary's celebrated its Golden Jubilee.

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Pastoral Council

Back row (L-R): Glenda Conovor, Theresa Wilson, Greg Coulter, Fr. Chuck Tobin Front: Clint Stiens, Steve Klotz, Mary Wilmes, Mike Casteel. *Not pictured: Sr. Rose Hacker*

## 'Now is the Time', continued from page 1

*than ever for the faith and life of the church."* With the blessing of the Pastoral Council, the Pastoral Council Advisory Committee (PCAB) has been given the task of reviewing the information gathered over the past six years and developing a plan for the future of our parish (see '*St. Gregory's Parish Planning*', page 3).

Ahead of us lay many opportunities to enrich and expand our parish life and parish vitality. Our list of opportunities, identified by the PCAB, includes our proximity to a university and its energy and young adults; a growing sense of excitement and initiative from within our congregation; a desire to welcome and reach out to a growing community; a common desire for involvement; a new pastor, new Bishop and new resources. To take full advantage of these opportunities we also need to address and overcome some obstacles. The PCAB has identified a general weakness in communication throughout the parish; we tend to fall back on tradition, the way things have "always been done"; we suffer from a general lack of programming; we adapt to budget confines in that we program to our budget and not budget to our programs; we are perceived by many to be "clique-ish", or friendly but not accepting and inclusive; we rely too heavily on paid staff; we are great evaluators and planners, but rarely have we followed through with tangible results.



Pastoral Council Advisory Board

Front row (L-R): Pat Lucido, Sonja Hennigler, Russ Schuster, Mike Wilson, Back: Mark Leggett (consultant), Cris Jacobson, Ben Wynn, Diane Sudhoff, Sue Dorrel

For the last six years we have been in a period of goal-setting and needs assessment. Now it is the charter of the PCAB to plan, organize and initiate a course of action to achieve tangible results and rewards. We are looking forward to having our entire parish community on board for this next step in our exciting ride to create parish vitality and relevance for all members.

# St. Gregory's Parish Planning

## Where has it been in the last 6 years? Where is it going?

### May, 1998 Parish Long Range Plan

Let's go back in time to May, 1998 where through a task force of the Pastoral Council a three year parish plan was developed. The following issues were addressed:

- Bridging diversity of ages and populations
- Liturgical celebrations with youth and crease parish participation
- Development of family spirituality
- Stewardship responsibility and being good stewards of our resources
- Fostering community, initiating Small Christian Communities
- Provide spiritual growth through faith formation for total parish family
- Education and establish a social justice committee

### May, 2001 Parish Needs Assessment

In the spring of 2001, the Pastoral Council conducted at church a parish needs assessment at Mass, asking the parishioners to write down three strong areas, three weak areas and areas of concern. Results were tabulated and reported in May of 2001. The top concern was parish youth programs.



### January, 2003 Parish Needs Assessment

The Pastoral Council designed a parish needs assessment that was mailed to all homes asking individuals to indicate the level of importance of goals for our parish based on the diocesan millennium study and also rating the success that the goals actually being achieved by the parish. After studying and reflecting on the data, the Pastoral Council identified three areas of focus with communication, spiritual enrichment and liturgy being threaded into these areas. The areas were: Youth/Young Adults, Support Groups and Stewardship.

### February, 2004

#### Visioning Session- Parish Ministries

Representatives from parish ministries came together to a visioning session to discuss the challenges and opportunities for St. Gregory's Parish. Those present were: Daniel Baker, Jill Baker, Cheryl Barmann, Mike Barmann, Kathleen Baudino, Glenda Conover, Greg Coulter, Sue Dorrel, Janice Falcone, Susan Grispino, Sr. Rose Hacker, Brian Henggeler, Sonja Henggeler, Kathy Howell, Bill Ingles, Bonnie Ingels, Cris Jacobson, Denise Jasinski, Steve Klotz, Patricia Lucido, Lori Mardis, Mary Noel, Margaret Pierson, Wayne Pierson, Julie Prokes, Margaret Schmidt, Amy Schreck, Russ Schuster, Tom Spire, Diane Sudhoff, Fr. Chuck Tobin, JoAnn Townsend, Charla Wiederholt, Ada Mae Wilmes, Mary Lou Wilmes, Mike Wilson, Theresa Wilson, Ben Wynn, Jolaine Zweifel, and Tom Zweifel.

#### The Creation of the Pastoral Council Advisory Board (PCAB)

Individuals volunteered to meet over the next 8-10 weeks to take the parish data gathered by the Pastoral Council in 2003 and previous years and create a strategic plan with implementation goals to be presented to the pastoral council and parish community. The advisory group began meeting on February 15. Individuals attending: Sue Dorrel, Sonja Henggeler, Cris Jacobson, Denise Jasinski, Patricia Lucido, Russ Schuster, Diane Sudhoff, Fr. Chuck Tobin, Mike Wilson, Theresa Wilson, and Ben Wynn.

With a donation from a parish family, Mark Leggett from The Church Development Foundation, was hired as a consultant to help work through the process of creating a parish plan. The parish family, who wishes to remain anonymous, shared the following thoughts "Our faith and therefore our church is very important to us. We ourselves recognize that there are and will be many needs for our church community to continue to grow and prosper. After listening to Mark Leggett, we were convinced that he could lead our church community down the right path as far as recognizing and organizing the ideas and energy in the right direction".

#### Prayer for Our Strategic Planning Process

##### 'Taking Another Step in Faith'

*Good and Gracious God,  
from the day of our baptism  
you have chosen us and called us to be holy.  
As your children in the word,  
we have inherited the mission and  
the message of our Savior, Jesus Christ.  
With grateful and hopeful hearts,  
we ask you to bless the work we do  
as a parish community.  
Send the guidance of your Holy Spirit to  
bless the work of our planning.  
As we prepare to 'Take Another Step in Faith',  
bless us with the energy, creativity  
and vision your Spirit provides,  
and help us to trust that the good  
work you have begun in us will be  
brought to completion.  
  
We as through our Lord, Jesus Christ, You Son, who  
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God,  
forever and ever. Amen.*

## 'Our History', Continued from page 2

- **September, 1959**, St. Mary's and St. Pat's schools combined classes at St. Patrick's school.
- In **November, 1961** St. Mary's and St. Patrick's were combined and the parish was named for St. Gregory Barbarigo. This is the first parish known to be dedicated to St. Gregory Barbarigo, who was canonized by Pope John XXIII in June of 1960.
- **1963** New St. Gregory's School is built.
- **1982** New St. Gregory's Church is constructed, the cornerstone is blessed and laid on **October 24**.
- New parish center building is dedicated by Bishop Boland on **January 14, 1996**.
- Currently we have **907** families registered with the parish.



## St. Gregory of Barbarigo Church Mission Statement

Lord, help us to grow in our mission of faith, love, and support of one another on our journey to you. May we draw strength from the wisdom of our elders, the enthusiasm of our youth, and the example of the faithful. Help us to grow in faith by sharing in the joys and sorrows, the successes and failures of all whose lives we share. Help us to acknowledge our collective responsibility for the stewardship and sharing of our resources of time, talents, and treasures.

We ask this in the name of Jesus.

Amen

### St. Gregory Barbarigo Catholic Church

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