



*Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World by Knowing, Loving and Serving God.*



### RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024

Every year I typically look back at the report from the previous annual parish meeting to get an idea of where we are now as compared with then. And I have to say that it is encouraging when the things I reported as new and exciting initiatives are continuing. For instance, last year I expressed my joy at the increased activity within our deanery having various combined services with our sister parishes as well as the deanery men's group gatherings. It is even more encouraging when those efforts expand as our Daughters of the Holy Cross have reached out and joined together with St. Peter and St. Paul in their Operation Christmas Child this year. This cooperation has quickly become an established component of our common life within the deanery as we continue to set the example for the rest of our diocese.

At the parish level we are maintaining a consistent level of weekly activity with our regular offerings from previous years as well as the addition of monthly dominoes and donuts as well as the occasional bingo night. I want to thank all of our ministry leaders and all of our dreamers and doers who keep everything running and get new initiatives off the ground as well as everyone else for their enthusiastic participation in the life of St. Gregory's.

We also had the excitement of updating our parking lot from the old asphalt to new concrete. Thank you to everyone who donated and especially to our Junior Warden (and her dad) for doing the legwork to secure the

various bids and oversee the work.

On a more somber note, we lost one of our founding members, Abby Wilson, this past year. She was a remarkable woman, and I was honored to preside at her funeral. But her impact will continue to be felt here in our ongoing partnership with Pet Partners and even more so with the naming and dedication of our parish hall to honor both Abby and Rollin for their instrumental role in establishing St. Gregory's. Wilson Hall is a vital part of our mission and fellowship, and it could not be more aptly named.

Finally, I wanted to make everyone aware that I will be taking a sabbatical this year. Our diocese encourages a sabbatical for the clergy every 7 years. This year will mark my 9<sup>th</sup> year serving at St. Gregory's and my 14<sup>th</sup> year as an ordained priest. The plan is for me to be gone for 10 weeks following Easter Sunday, April 20. The sabbatical will offer me the opportunity to take a spiritual retreat as well as a family vacation and to have some down time as well. I would be lying if I did not admit that although I am excited about my time off I am also a bit anxious as well. A lot can happen in 10 weeks and I take my role as shepherd of this flock very seriously and very personally. I covet your prayers for a time of rest and refreshment for myself and my family.

As always, I look forward to the coming year as St. Gregory's continues to grow and thrive as we fulfill our mission of "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World by Knowing, Loving, and Serving God.

Fr. Alan Horton+



Front Row: Susan McDuff, John Zavala, Tim Cannon, Donna Sloan  
Back Row: Cindy Bloomfield, Fr. Alan Horton, Mack Holcomb

### NEW VESTRY MEMBERS ELECTED AT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Two new vestry members were elected by acclamation at our annual parish meeting. Donna Sloan and Tim Cannon will serve three year terms, beginning in January 2025. They joined Sr. Warden Mack Holcomb, Jr. Warden Cindy Bloomfield, Parish Life Coordinator Susan McDuff and Out Reach Coordinator John Zavala.

## CHILI, ONIONS, FRITOS, OH MY!

Our Annual Chili Cook-Off was a great success! With nine entries, everyone enjoyed some of the best Chili Mansfield has to offer. Our judges had the task of selecting the Best Chili without Beans, Best Alternative Chili, Best Chili with Beans. New this year was a People's Choice Winner with everyone getting to vote for their favorite Chili. Thanks to everyone for making this annual event a fun filled competition!



Left to Right: Beth Marshall-Chili Competition Master, Bert Sloan-Winner People's Choice, Asa Horton-Judge, Paul Jennings-Winner Best Chili without Beans, James McDuff-Judge, Cindy Bloomfield-Winner Best Chili with Beans, Barbara Edwards-Winner Best Alternative Chili, Milissa Holt-Judge.



## FROM THE VESTRY . . .

Greetings from your 2025 vestry. We are honored to serve our congregation and forever grateful for your support. Kudos to Beth and Angie for their remarkable leadership as prior senior and junior wardens, respectively.

This is my third year to serve on the vestry, and I cannot recall any disagreements amongst us, which is a rarity in such leadership groups. We are committed to the growth of our parish, and we are dedicated to the responsible stewardship of funds.

Generous donations received have allowed us to "take care of business" without church debt, for which we are thankful to God and to you for your commitment to our church.

On a personal note, Sharon and I have never been members of a congregation that has been as caring, loving, and supportive as St. Gregory's. What a blessing to have this loving church family that welcomes and supports others with open arms. Under the leadership of Fr. Horton, I truly believe that God has purpose and plans for St. Gregory's to further His Kingdom.

-Mack Holcomb, Sr. Warden



Fr. Alan Horton, Jane Zavala, Cindy Bloomfield, Donna Sloan, Gayle Bradburn, Kathy Walker, Sharon Holcomb, Candace Griffin, Susan McDuff, Beth Marshall

## DHC Adds New Member

Donna Sloan became the newest member of St. Gregory's chapter of the Daughters of the Holy Cross. Donna was inducted during our service on Sunday, January 19. She completed three months of study before being inducted. If you are interested in learning more about our DHC, contact Kathy Walker.



Photo by Phil Hawkins

## NEWS FROM ST. CLARA'S GUILD

-Barbara Edwards

St. Clara's Guild will meet on Saturday, February 8 at 9:00 in Wilson Hall. We will continue working on the dignity bibs that will be donated to a local nursing home. Bring sewing machines and other sewing supplies.



We also want to remind everyone that when we have a quilt blessed to be given to somebody, there are prayer knots tied into the design of the quilt. We would love for everybody to come to the communion rail after Mass to tie a knot and say a brief prayer for the recipient of the quilt.



05~ Holly Horton

06~ Nate Horn

17~ Gayle Bradburn

17~ Anna Sparkman

20~ Gwen Horton

23~ George Sparkman

23~ Fred Bass

24~ James Horn

24~ Elizabeth McDuff

25~ Milissa Holt



Food Drive  
Sunday  
February 23

Share your  
blessings!

*I share*  
**Jesus**  
ST. GREGORY'S  
ANGLICAN CHURCH

## Ministry Opportunity for Crocheters and Knitters

Every year the Daughters of the Holy Cross participate in Operation Christmas Child sending gifts to needy children around the world. In 2024 we included handmade purses in each shoebox packed for girls. We would love to do the same in 2025.

If you enjoy crafting with yarn please consider making small purses with us! Allow your creativity to shine! Use yarn you have on hand, add a decorative button, have fun!

Any completed purses can be given to me or left in the church office.

I am working on writing out my basic patterns and will have some available very soon.

Thank you in advance for sharing your skills for this ministry. In His service, Sharon Holcomb



## SAVE THE DATES - FEBRUARY

04~ 9:30 am Women's Bible Study

06~ 9:30 am Genealogy Meeting

08~ 9:00 am St. Clara's Guild

09~ **Super Bowl Party**—Wilson Hall

*Bring your favorite football snacks!*

11~ 9:30 am Women's Bible Study

13~ 6:00 pm **Ladies Galentine's Party**

15~ 8:00 am Men's Group —Wilson Hall

11:00 am Healing Ministry

17~ President's Day - Office Closed

18~ 9:30 am Women's Bible Study

20~ 9:00 am Dominoes & Donuts & Cards

22~ 10:00 am DHC Meeting

23~ Youth Service and Food Drive

25~ 9:30 am Women's Bible Study

## St. Gregory's Genealogy Research Group

The Genealogy Group's next meeting will be Thursday, February 6, 9:30 a.m. in Wilson Hall.

If you are interested in learning more about our group and what we do, please come and join us. We will gladly help with family research projects!

Lunch and fellowship will be at the Mexican Inn following the meeting.

Happy Hunting!! Gayle Bradburn

## Join Us in Service and Fellowship

### Altar Guild

This group maintains the altar for Sunday service, Baptisms, funerals and other special services.

### St. Gregory's Choir

The choir is for men and women who like to sing and offer praise to God with their voices.

### Daughters of the Holy Cross

This group of women take a lifetime vow of prayer, service, study and evangelism.

### Evangelism and Outreach

Planning activities and events, this team shows the love of Jesus in our Mansfield community.

### Flower Guild

Learn the art and skill of flower arrangement with fresh flowers for our sanctuary.

### Healing Ministry

A group of prayer teams to pray on those seeking healing as directed by Jesus.

### Men's Study Group

The men of the church meet on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays for a time of study, service and fellowship.

### Women's Study Group

The women of the church meet on Tuesday mornings, enjoying book studies and fellowship.

### St. Clara's Guild

This group sews quilts for the sick or to welcome new members at baptism. They also knit caps for newborns in local hospitals and complete other hand done projects for the community.

### St. Gregory's Genealogy Group

Explore your family history and heritage with our group. Or learn how to research your family's roots using the knowledge shared by our members.

### St. Gregory's Nursery Helpers

This group provides care in our nursery for children under 3 years of age while services are taking place in the sanctuary.

### St. Martha's Guild

By providing meals for parishioners and their families during times of illness, bereavement, or even the birth of a child, this group shares God's love.

### St. Francis Pet Therapy (Pet Partners)

Through Pet Partners, owners and pets are trained to visit residents of nursing homes and schools, offering God's love through time with a gentle pet. Those without pets may also serve.

### St. Gregory's Worship Teams

Our team of Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEM), Lectors, Crucifers and Oblationers (Ushers) make of this group. Special training is provided for those wishing to serve on this team.



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