

THE CITIES OF GOD

ST. GREGORY PARISH

THE LORD HEALS THE *brokenhearted.*

PSALM 147



FEBRUARY 7, 2021 | 5 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

HOLY REDEEMER CHURCH

415 4th St, Ellwood City
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 10:00 am
Communion: 11:00 - 11:15 am

SAINT GREGORY CHURCH

2 West Beaver St, Zelienople
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 11:00 am
Communion: 12:00 - 12:15 pm

SAINT FERDINAND CHURCH

2535 Rochester Rd, Cranberry Twp.
Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm
Sunday: 10:00 am
Communion: 5:00 - 5:15 pm and
11:00 - 11:15 am

PRAYER & WORSHIP

Liturgical Schedule | Parish & School Directory

LITURGY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:00 pm | Paul Bucek & Helen Kocis - Audrey Makowski
11:00 am | Robert Coyner, Sr. - Faber Family

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Saint Jerome Emiliani; Saint Josephine Bakhita, Virgin
8:00 am | Nicholas L. Geimer - Daughter, Claire

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

8:00 am | Raymond Thompson - Family

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Saint Scholastica, Virgin
8:00 am | Charles F. Schott - Ed Sherman

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Our Lady of Lourdes
8:00 am | Joseph Semel - Knights of Columbus

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

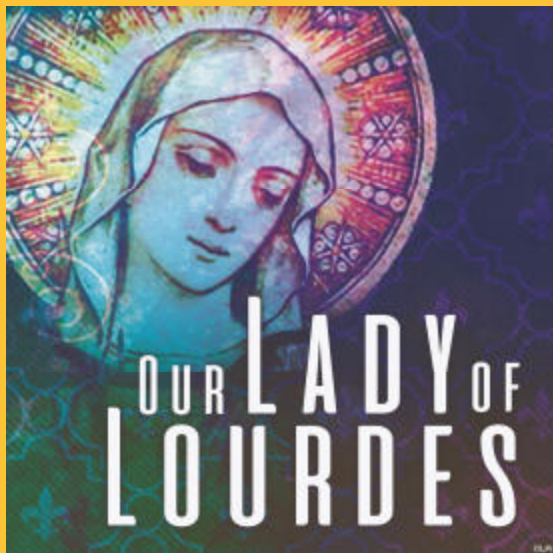
9:15 am | Harry Melani - The Devens Family

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

The Blessed Virgin Mary
10:00 am | Confessions at St. Gregory Church
1:00 pm | Wedding - Taryn Testa & Ethan Kadar
5:00 pm | Kathleen Mullen - Kimberly Hast & Teri Shoop-Murray & Families

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
11:00 am | Ron D'Alessandro - Wife, Jackie



CLERGY FOR PARISH GROUPING

Administrator:

Rev. Philip N. Farrell 724-452-7245

Senior Priest:

Rev. John P. Gallagher 724-776-2888

Senior Parochial Vicar:

Rev. Mark L. Thomas 724-758-4411

Parochial Vicar:

Rev. David J. Egan 724-776-2888

Deacon:

Donald C. Pepe 724-452-7245

PARISH & SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Parish Secretary:

Diane Devens E-Mail: parishoffice@stgregzelie.org

Parish Office: 724-452-7245

M-F 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Fax 724-452-4064

Closed for Lunch 12 - 12:30 pm

Bulletin E-Mail: bulletin@stgregzelie.org

Ritzert Hall Rental: temporarily suspended 724-452-7245

Safe Environment Coordinator:

Cathy Nowak E-Mail: cathy@stferd.org

Pastoral Associate:

Sister Patricia Myers, SHS E-Mail: srpatty1@verizon.net

Director of Faith Formation:

Audra Brown E-Mail: ccd@stgregzelie.org

Program Manager:

Denise Knauff E-Mail: dknauff@stgregzelie.org

Music Director:

Adam Blotzer E-Mail: blotzeradam@gmail.com

Business Manager:

Julie Strosnider E-Mail: jstrosnider@stgregzelie.org

Maintenance Director Jim Bucek maintenance@stgregzelie.org

St. Gregory School: 724-452-9731

School E-Mail: schooloffice@stgregzelie.org

Principal:

Erin Rice E-Mail: erice@stgregzelie.org

School Cafeteria:

Andy Harmer 724-452-8010

St. Gregory School Website www.stgregzelie.org

St. Gregory Website: www.stgregparish.org

SACRAMENTS

Sacrament of Baptism

By appointment. Baptisms will be scheduled after parents have completed the baptism class and have obtained godparent sponsor letters and baby's birth certificate.

Sacrament of Matrimony

You must contact and meet with the priest at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

Please call the St. Gregory office if you or a loved one is in need of this Sacrament.

Sacrament of Holy Orders

If you feel that God may be calling you to the Priesthood or to the Permanent Diaconate, please contact the parish office.

Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

Saturday: 10:00 am | Also by appointment.

Communion - Low-Gluten Hosts are available. Please come to the Sacristy before Mass.

FROM OUR ADMINISTRATOR

**NONE OF US IS WORTHY;
ALL OF US ARE OBLIGED**

It's very easy for each of us to play up what we believe to be our good qualities and our strengths. We can be proud of (vain about?) what we perceive that we do well. By the same token, we can just as easily downplay our less than desirable or weaker characteristics. Nonetheless, we have no right or reason to gloat over our strengths or bemoan our weaknesses...because they aren't ours. Each and every one of them – warts and beauty marks – we neither earned nor deserved. They're all gifts. At one point in his apostolic career, St. Paul complains to God how difficult things have become, to which the Lord responds, "Power is made perfect in weakness." Then, St. Paul figures it out by saying, "I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me." (2 Cor. 12:8-9) Think about it, Who is it that makes St. Paul both weak and powerful? In our Second Reading this weekend from 1 Corinthians, St. Paul tells us that he feels "obliged" to preach the Gospel because it's a gift and responsibility given to him by God, and he sets forth to do this with his words, his actions – his entire life. He sees all that he has been given as the instruments of his mission: "I have become all things to all, to save at least some." And how broadly based is his mission to be? Well, just look at his mentor and guide. In the Gospel passage this weekend, after Jesus heals and teaches many in Capernaum, he tells his Apostles, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." He might as well be

coming out and saying, "My mission is to all The Cities of God." Jesus knew that He had come to give all of His life to everyone. St. Paul recognized that who he was and what he had were God's gift to him to be used to preach to as many people as he could encounter. Can we see OURselves in this? WE are all different – that's by God's design. Each of US is uniquely equipped by God for service to the Gospel message. This is an obligation that WE are not to take lightly. The expanse of The Cities of God may appear unmanageable, but this is nothing in comparison to the geography that Jesus or that St. Paul covered. They performed their ministry out of an obligation rooted in love, and so can WE. From one end of the Grouping to the other, throughout the three counties that we serve, and to the hearts and souls of all in The Cities of God, WE are gifted and obliged to serve with all at OUR disposal for the love of God and the unity of the one Body of Christ. May WE give OURselves wholeheartedly to this divinely inspired mission.

God Bless The Cities of God!

PS. It may seem rather shocking to say, but Lent is just around the corner. Ash Wednesday is only 1 ½ weeks away, 17 February. As each Church celebration arrives, we have to address it in light of the Covid -19 pandemic. Remember, last year things didn't start changing until the middle of Lent, and so this year we'll have to make some adjustments to Ash Wednesday for the first time. The Vatican and the US Bishops have

provided us with guidance and directives to avoid close and continuous contact with each individual as well as the ashes. After the ashes have been blessed, the minister will say the ritual formula over all present rather than over each person. Then, in a fashion already practiced in the Vatican and in Italy, rather than ashes being placed on the forehead as each individual comes forward, ashes will be sprinkled on the top of the head. This is also a penitential practice cited often in the Old Testament. Hopefully this shift will help to keep us safe and also, by its difference, attune us more to the intent of the ritual.



**READINGS | WEEK OF
FEBRUARY 7, 2021**

Sunday: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. 3a]/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39
Monday: Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10 and 12, 24 and 35c [31b]/Mk 6:53-56
Tuesday: Gn 1:20—2:4a/Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [2ab]/Mk 7:1-13
Wednesday: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30 [1a]/Mk 7:14-23
Thursday: Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1a]/Mk 7:24-30
Friday: Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7 [1a]/Mk 7:31-37
Saturday: Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2, 3-4abc, 5-6, 12-13 [1]/Mk 8:1-10
Next Sunday: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11 [7]/1 Cor 10:31—11:1/Mk 1:40-4

AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

The Cities of God- "A Past to Remember, a Present to Celebrate and a Future Full of Promise."

February

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to St. Gregory School Graduates who continue to achieve academic excellence in High School. The following students have achieved recognition at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School:

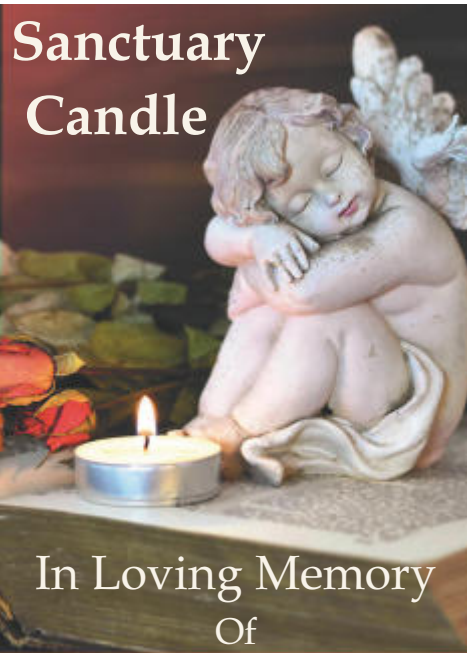
HIGHEST HONORS

Gabriella Troiani
Paisley Conver

HONORS

Andrew Besong

Sanctuary Candle



In Loving Memory
Of

Ron D'Alessandro

From, Jackie

OUR PARISHES

ST. GREGORY

YEAR END STATEMENTS were mailed at the end of January for those who donated over \$100.00. If you require a statement of your donations, please email the parish office and it will be sent via return email. parishoffice@stgregzelie.org
THANK YOU to all who support the Church through the WeShare online giving platform. Just as a reminder, as your credit card expirations in 2021 get closer, please don't forget to update your account at WeShare with your new expiration dates. Your regular giving is very much appreciated.

ST. FERDINAND

Sign Up for Living Stations Cast, Crew or Reader

All 8th-12th grade students are invited to participate in our Living Stations, a beautiful prayer service staged during Lent. We need teens to serve as cast, crew and readers. Any time you can lend will be appreciated, and you will get credit for service hours. For information and the sign-up packet, please see our bulletin boards. Or, contact Andrea at 724-776-1920, almwheeler803@gmail.com, or Beth at 724-776-9177, ext. 314, beth@stferd.org. Adults are needed

to join our team, too -- please reach out to us by phone or email. We hope you join us for this faith - and fellowship - filled experience.

HOLY REDEEMER

Happy Anniversary Holy Redeemer Parish

This past Friday, Feb. 5, 2021, Holy Redeemer Parish celebrated their 21st Anniversary. As we continue to be blessed by the Father's love, redeemed by the Son and guided by the Holy Spirit, we look to the future as we journey On Mission for the Church Alive. In our journey, we will continue to Remember the Past, Celebrate the Present and Embrace a Future Full of Promise. Prayer cards will be available at the Church entrances the weekend of February 6/7 to commemorate our anniversary. May God Bless everyone!

Cash & Golf Calendars Raffle March 2021 - \$30 Donation

3 numbers per ticket based on PA Lottery Pick 3 drawing March 1 to March 31. Call Lou at 724.758.4411 x 110. Very limited supply, make checks payable to E.C. Wolves.

VALENTINE'S DAY SCAVENGER HUNT

Our Youth Ministry is holding a Valentine's Day Scavenger Hunt for students in grades 6-12 at Cranberry Community Park on Sunday, February 14, from 1-3 pm. Students will work in teams to search the Bible for clues, and then find the items in the park and take a picture with them. We will have hot chocolate for everyone and prizes for the winners. Please be sure they wear a mask (required) and dress warmly. To register, please complete a permission form ([Click here](#)) and return it to your Parish Office by February 10. You can also scan and email it to almwheeler803@gmail.com.

IS IT EVER OK TO LEAVE MASS BEFORE IT ENDS?

This is an interesting question because beneath the surface there seems to be an assumption that if it's okay, then why do we have to stay after we receive communion? The short answer is "no," but we definitely want to go a bit deeper as we consider why.

First, when we think about questions like this, we must consider this in adult terms. If there is something gravely important that we need to do, then we must attend to that. However, if it is a matter of convenience or preference, then we really have to stop and think again. First, while we always want to recognize the importance of sacramental communion in the Mass, we also need to understand how important the time of thanksgiving and prayer after communion is. This is summarized in the Prayer After Communion offered by the celebrant and then we are also commissioned to "Go forth" during the Dismissal of the Mass, reminding us that we have been entrusted with a gift — the Word of God and the Presence of Christ in the sacrament — and that we are to share that gift with others.

If we simply leave after we receive communion, we risk two things. First, there is the possibility that we will turn our reception of communion into a purely personal, individual experience that is separated from our common experience of worship — and communion in the fullest sense — and, second, we lose an opportunity for gratitude and serious reflection if we simply leave after communion. This time of thanksgiving, reflection, and, ultimately, missioning, are important and, in the end, an essential part of the celebration of the Mass.

ST. GREGORY FAITH FORMATION IMPORTANT DATES

JESUS DAY

Saturday, February 27, (Virtual or In-Person TBA)



SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION

Tuesday, March 2, at 6:30 pm



THE AUDACITY OF HOLINESS

Do you know a holy person? I'm not talking about piety — that's important, too, in its own way. But right now, I'm speaking of holiness.

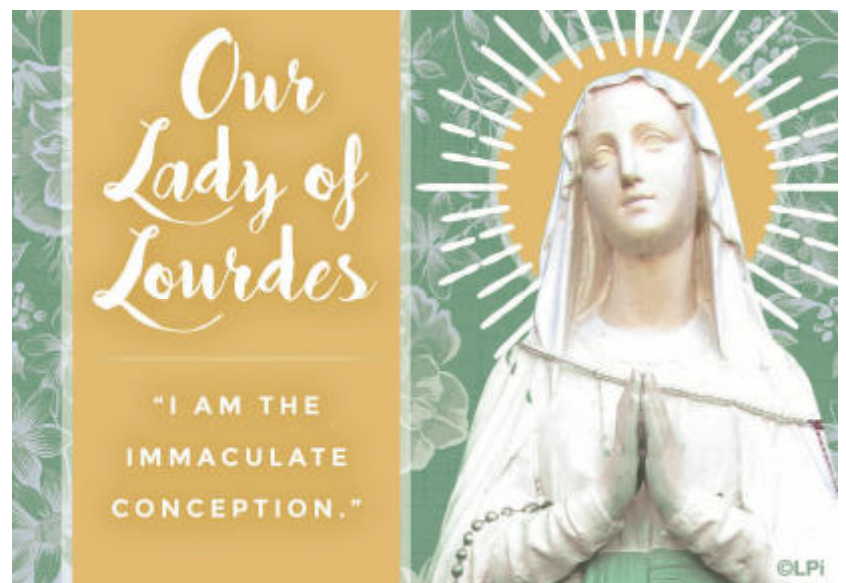
St. Therese of Lisieux called holiness "a disposition of the heart that makes us humble and little in the arms of God, aware of our weakness, and confident — in the most audacious way — in His Fatherly goodness."

The holy person sees a storm on the horizon of life, and rather than give themselves over to fear and despair (natural and understandable reactions), regards the gathering winds as an opportunity to rely more fully on God. The holy person takes a bad situation and sanctifies it with charity and understanding that defies our fallen human nature.

Peter's mother-in-law was still in the throes of a fever when Jesus grasped her hand. It wasn't until she took his hand and allowed him to help her up that "the fever left her and she waited on them." Before the fever could leave her, she had to commit to holiness — to put her trust in him in a most audacious way. She had to find it within herself to lift her weakened hand to grasp his — and as soon as she did, she was rewarded. Her bodily health restored, she gave thanks, and attended to his needs.

God's hand is always outstretched to us. Will we take it, even if the fever of sin and pride and worldly concerns rages in our souls? Will we muster the strength? Will we be audacious enough to have confidence in His Fatherly goodness?

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



ST. GREGORY'S MONTH FOR MEALS ON WHEELS DESSERTS HAS BEGUN

It is not too late to sign up to provide a dozen cupcakes, several dozen cookies, canned / fresh fruit, Jell-O, or pudding? All items will be greatly appreciated by our senior citizens and shut-ins. For information, please call Mary Ann Brill (724.368.3313) or email ([magreb105@zoominternet.net](mailto:magrebl05@zoominternet.net)).

THE YOUTH MINISTRY

THE CULTURE PROJECT - Youth are invited to a three-week event called "The Culture Project" at St. Kilian on Tuesday nights in February. Their team will discuss topics of human dignity, sexual integrity, and social media. There is a parent meeting at St. Kilian on February 2 if you want more information before sending your child. If you wish to register yourself (February 2) or your child (February 9, 16, and 23) contact Andrea at almwheeler803@gmail.com.

COLLECTIONS JANUARY 17

Sunday Offering \$10,435.00

PLEASE PRAY FOR



Ron Rishack, Adella Barr, Mary Polonchak, Elaine Hafner, Judy Kingerski, Mary Tomayko, Tina Loomis, Father Ed Kunco, Sharon Hunter, Norbert Miller, and Karen Sikora

ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 17

ST. GREGORY PARISH

8:00 am Mass - Ashes distribution
12:00 pm Service - School Children- Ashes distribution

7:00 pm Mass - Ashes distribution

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

9:00 am Mass
3:00 pm Service
7:00 pm Mass

ST. FERDINAND PARISH

8:30 am Mass
12:00 pm Service
7:00 pm Mass

Make Required [Mass](#) Reservations Now.

ASLEEP IN CHRIST

Please Pray for the repose of the soul of **Irene Kosich**, who recently died. May she rest in peace and may the perpetual light of Christ shine upon her.

Father Jim Torquato's Father, **Nicholas Torquato**, passed away recently. May he rest in peace and may the perpetual light of Christ shine on him. If you would like to send condolences, his address is:

Reverend James R. Torquato
Saint Philip Parish
114 Berry Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

IGNATIAN IMAGINATIVE CONTEMPLATION *Going Deeper into the Holy*

Join us to learn, through imaginative contemplation, how we can come to know Jesus intimately as we immerse ourselves and follow him in the Gospel stories that show him healing and teaching.

This session, the 5th of 6, will consist of an introduction to the prayer form, a guided contemplation, silent prayerful reflection and group sharing. Registration is required by February 10. Send an email to julie@stferd.org.

Date: Monday, February 15, 2021, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm **Location:** Zoom Platform **Presenter:** Theresa Rossi, Graduate, Spiritual Direction & Spiritual Leadership Program, Pneuma Institute, Pittsburgh, PA

Questions: Theresa Rossi 724.316.5575 or Kathy Bachik 724.776.1357



Meet the School Staff - Mr. Andy Harmer

My name is Andy Harmer. I have been part of the St. Gregory family for 14 years, as a school parent for my 3 children, and as staff member for the last 12. I currently run the school lunch program.

Over the last 14 years I have volunteered in some way for every St. Gregory sports program, ran the school concession stand for 10 years, and I've managed the PTG Fish Fry for 12 years.

I have been married to my wife Maria for 31 years, and we are both Penn State grads. Prior to St. Gregory, I worked for 15 years in Foodservice management, and for 5 years as a Pre-School assistant principal.

I have enjoyed my time at St. Gregory both working and volunteering!

Registration: There are still openings in a few grades at St. Gregory School for the 2021-2022 school year. Please visit our website StGregZelie.org or call the school office at 724-452-9731.



St. Gregory School is very pleased to say that we have been in session, with students in the building, 5 days/week since September 8. Our teachers continue to teach each class virtually for any family that chooses that type of learning. Students and staff have temperatures taken before entering the building and we check students again at lunch. Masks are worn other than lunch when children eat distanced with a table shield in place. Hand sanitizers are mounted outside every classroom and door. Students bring bottled water from home; drinking fountains are not in use at this time. Social distancing and thorough cleaning are practiced throughout the day. Families and staff following the COVID-19 symptom checker and do a self-assessment, if they do not feel well, before coming to school. While things are definitely different, the students have been resilient and we believe that the benefits outweigh the changes. If you would like to find out more about our school, please give us a call. We would love to have you and your children become a part of the St. Gregory School family!

We thank you for your continued support of St. Gregory School!

Scratch-Off Raffle:

The winner receives 2 packages each of:
\$30 / \$20 / \$10 / \$5 PA Scratch-Off Lottery Tickets (that's 360 tickets)
PLUS \$100 cash.

Tickets \$10 each

The winning ticket will be pulled via a live-stream drawing on **Facebook** around St. Patrick's Day (exact date to be determined)

Only 1000 tickets will be sold!

Tickets are available at the school office (115 Pine Street, Zelienople) or at <https://ScratchOff0321.givesmart.com>.

All proceeds benefit the St. Gregory School PTG.

Soergel's Meal Kits:

Enjoy a fresh, pre-packaged meal kit from Soergel's Orchard, serving size 4-6 persons.

Choose from: *Chicken Parmesan Grocery Kit* or *Vegetable Lasagna Grocery Kit.*

Cost - \$50/kit

Soergel's Orchard is generously

donating \$10 to St. Gregory School for each kit sold!

Orders can be purchased directly through the school office by dropping off a marked envelope including family name, meal kit choice, and cash or check made out to

St. Gregory PTG or use the link: <https://soergels.givesmart.com>

Deadline for orders: Friday, February 12, at 3pm

Pick up will be held on Friday, February 19, 3 pm to 5 pm in front of the main entrance of St. Gregory Church. (special arrangements can be made if those times do not work)

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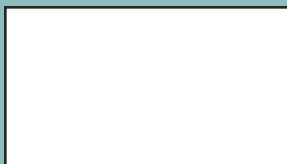
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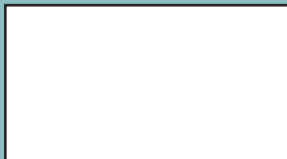
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