# Divine Grace Parish

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 24, 2025



Hayley and Tony Grese are set to witness the canonization of two young men who died nearly a century apart, but have inspired Catholics worldwide by their devotion to God and service to others.

Saint Ferdinand

2535 Rochester Road Cranberry Twp., PA 16066 Saint Gregory
2 West Beaver Street
Zelienople, PA 16063

Read their story on page 5.

Holy Redeemer 415 4<sup>th</sup> Street Ellwood City, PA 16117



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Pastor jwehner@diopitt.org

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Senior Priest jpgallagher@diopitt.org

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Parochial Vicar dkushner@diopitt.org

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#### Deacon Erik L. Pintar

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For next week's schedule, follow us on Instagram -@divinegracepgh - or visit https://bit.ly/3QnKf5w

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Bulletin cover: Divine Grace parishioners Hayley and Tony Grese, photographed at Saint Ferdinand Church.



For behold, some are Last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.

-Luke 13:30

#### Visit Jesus in the Holy Eucharist

As summer comes to a close, consider spending time before the Blessed Sacrament. All three of our churches have Adoration each week. You can see the schedule on page 6 of this bulletin. Even on those days when the Eucharist is not exposed, you can still come into the church during the day and reflect with our Lord before the Tabernacle. Anchor your days in prayer with Jesus.

#### **Labor Day Masses**

Next Monday, September 1, we will celebrate Mass at 9:00 am in all three of our churches. Begin your day with worship, thanking the Lord for the providence of our nation and praying for those who are unable to labor.

#### Passion and Death of John the Baptist

This Friday, August 29, the Church remembers the heroic and faithful Saint John the Baptist who was ordered beheaded by King Herod. John is the second cousin of Iesus and the first to herald Iesus as the Lamb of God. John introduced Andrew to Jesus who then introduced his brother Peter to Jesus. John the Baptist -Pray for Us!

#### Remember the Parish in Your Will

We are blessed to have so many people who financially support our parish - Thank You! I am grateful to learn how people leave a bequest to Divine Grace Parish. Thank you for considering the parish as you discern how to leave your financial gifts to family and others.

#### Parish Festival Follow-Up

All volunteers are invited to a dinner meeting on Tuesday, September 2 at 7:00 pm in Oldenski Hall. We will review the outcomes of the festival and make recommendations for next summer.

#### **Promoting Vocations**

Our parish has a Vocations Council which prays for and promotes vocations. Would you like to serve with this group? It is relatively new. If you are interested in more information, please email Jennifer, our Facilitator of Parish Ministries, at <u>ilivorse@divinegracepgh.org</u>.

#### **Blessings on Our Students**

May the Lord bless all students with a safe, productive and holy year of studies and formation in our faith.

#### **Confession Cleanses the Soul**

In addition to receiving the Holy Eucharist and worshipping at Mass, the sacrament of penance is where we meet the Mercy of God. When was the last time you went to confession? Did you miss the Holy Day of Obligation on August 15? Struggling with porn, food, alcohol, or anger? Let God into these struggles!

#### **Deacon Erik and Seminarian Chris**

Both are back in the seminary. However, Deacon Erik will be with us most weekends throughout the year as a part of his preparation for priestly ministry next June. Chris will join us during holiday breaks. We are grateful for their faithful, energetic, and generous ministry this past year. Please continue to keep them in prayer.

#### DIVINE GRACE PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT



Sunday Collection total for August 9-10, 2025 = \$32,909 Second Collection = \$4,711 (for Building Maintenance) Parish Members = 18,791 Parish Households = 7,093

This weekend's second collection is for Catholic Communications and The Catholic University of America. Thank you for your generosity.

# 4 Mass Intentions Divine Grace Parish

# I ask that...prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be offered for everyone — 1 Timothy 2:1

#### Saturday, August 23 - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Lynda R. Stevens (Stevens Family)

 $5:00~{\rm pm},\,{\rm Holy}\,{\rm Redeemer}\ \ \dagger \,{\rm Timothy}\,{\rm VanKirk}\,({\rm Christina}\,{\rm VanKirk},$ 

wife)

5:00 pm, Saint Gregory † Richard Bachmann (Steve & Carolyn

Miller

6:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Florence Listwak (Joann Liebert)

#### Sunday, August 24 – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am, Saint Ferdinand † Josephine Andrulonis (Linda &

John Heinbockel)

8:00 am, Saint Gregory † Mary Jo Limmer (Kathy & Rob

Andreone)

9:00 am, Saint Ferdinand † Josephine Andrulonis (Linda & John

Heinbockel)

9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Arlene Cogliano (Ricki Coccia)

10:00 am, Saint Ferdinand Jack & Phyllis Wirth - Wedding

Anniversary (Mary & Matt Fleig)

10:00 am, Saint Gregory † Alan Osan (Stephen & Lisa Motyka)

11:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Marcella & James Abels (Family)

12:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Brian Tarasi (RCIA Team)

5:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Ron Holzer (Chuck & Terri Bernath)

## Monday, August 25 - Saint Louis, Saint Joseph of Calasanz

8:00 am, Saint Gregory † Robert G. Dorsch (Gene & Veronica

Vezzani

8:30 am, Saint Ferdinand † Joseph D'Alessandris (Family)

9:00 am, Holy Redeemer  $\,\,$  † Judith Simon (Anthony & Karen

Woloszyn)

#### Tuesday, August 26

8:00 am, Saint Gregory † Dale Benedum (Polly)

8:30 am, Saint Ferdinand † Florence Pasquale (Janie & Tom

Lander)

9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Liz Brandenburg (Carla Bunney)

#### Wednesday, August 27 - Saint Monica

8:00 am, Saint Gregory † William Knass (Family)

8:30 am, Saint Ferdinand  $\,\,$  † Christopher A. Young (Mary & Alan

Funovits)

9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † John & Camille Aniceti (Debbie Pagley)

7:00 pm, Holy Redeemer † For the Eradication of Evil within our
Parish Boundaries

7:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Beau D. Barclay (Rocky & Joe Renaud)

#### Thursday, August 28 - Saint Augustine

8:00 am, Saint Gregory † Nancy Alauzen (Tepke Family)

8:30 am, Saint Ferdinand † Fr. James Biller

9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Gail Frisk - Anniversary (Patti, sister)

# Friday, August 29 - The Passion of St. John the Baptist

8:30 am, Saint Ferdinand † Andrew Fornadel, Jr. (Wife & Children)
9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † JoAnn DeLuca (Kathy & Bob Small)
9:00 am, Saint Gregory † Rita Schoeffel (Nick & Tricia Madaffari)

#### Saturday, Aug. 30 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Deceased Members of the Buzzelli,

Capone, Nardone & Dukas Families

(Family)

4:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Joanne Candiello (Komoroski Family)

5:00 pm, Holy Redeemer † Elizabeth "Betty" Hulick (Kristina &

Jacob Ross)

5:00 pm, Saint Gregory George & Nancy Handte - 50th

Wedding Anniversary (Family)

6:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Nancy Caruso (Tina Krynicki)

#### Sunday, August 31 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am, Saint Ferdinand † Raymond & Magdalene Donatelli

(Blakley Family)

8:00 am, Saint Gregory † Marilyn Belsterling (Mr. & Mrs.

James Keener)

9:00 am, Holy Redeemer, † David Kardish (Marty Kardish Family)

10:00 am, Saint Ferdinand † Bob Meinert (Chuck Collins)

10:00 am, Saint Gregory † Alice Kehoe (Joyce Mengel)

11:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Anthony & Angeline Sbarrro and

children Carmella, Tom & Chrissy

(Daughter, Linda)

12:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Patricia Abadie (Arleen & Steve Gaydos)

5:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Ludwig, Mary, Dominic Bryan (Family)

† = deceased

The Week of August 24, 2025

# + Stories of Faith +

# Divine Grace Parishioners to be Witnesses to History

**Hayley** and **Tony Grese** are returning to Rome to complete a pilgrimage that has inspired them and millions of Catholics worldwide.

The Cranberry couple is attending the September 7 canonization of **Blessed Carlo Acutis** and **Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati**. The Italian laymen will be the first saints proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV, with Blessed Acutis the first millennial saint, having passed in 2006.

Born in 1991, Blessed Acutis displayed a deep love for the Eucharist and used his tech skills to evangelize before dying of leukemia at age 15. Blessed Frassati was a member of the Dominican Third Order who served the sick through the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. He died in 1925 at age 24 after contracting polio, possibly from one of the people he assisted.

Blessed Acutis is admired for his work creating a portable exhibition and website cataloging 187 Eucharistic miracles from around the world. He sought to share the profound reality of the Real Presence with others, inviting them to encounter Jesus in the Eucharist.

Hayley and Tony developed such a strong devotion to Blessed Acutis that they named their youngest child after him.

"Blessed Acutis is so relatable," Hayley said. Tony added, "He was born the day before I was. If he can become a saint, what am I doing? He showed that if you love something and do it for God, you can get to heaven."

Hayley and Tony were at the Vatican in April when Pope Francis died, which postponed the canonization. But Tony was determined to return for the ceremony, with Hayley's support.

"We're expecting a lot of young people in Saint Peter's Square," Hayley said. "I'm excited and joyful to be witnessing this history. It makes holiness feel attainable."

#### With Gratitude from Father Rudy

Father Rudy Valenzuela would like to offer thanks for your continued support of our sister parish, Holy Spirit, in San Luis, R.C., Mexico. Please keep him and his parish in your prayers.



#### Saint Ferdinand Church

2535 Rochester Road Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

Monday - Friday	8:30 am
Wednesday	7:00 pm
First Saturday	8:30 am
Saturday (Vigil)	4:00 pm
	6:00 pm
Sunday	8:00 am
	10:00 am
	Noon
	5:00 pm

#### **Holy Redeemer Church**

415 4<sup>th</sup> Street Ellwood City, PA 16117

Monday - Saturday	9:00 am
Wednesday	7:00 pm
Saturday (Vigil)	5:00 pm
Sunday	9:00 am
	11:00 am

#### Saint Gregory Church

2 West Beaver Street Zelienople, PA 16063

Monday - Thursday	8:00 am
Friday (School Mass)	9:00 am
Saturday (Vigil)	5:00 pm
Sunday	8:00 am
·	10:00 am



## MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

# Middle Moms Ministry



Caring for kids AND aging parents? You're not alone. Middle Moms Ministry is a welcoming space for Catholic Christian mothers to connect, pray, and grow together.

Join us for book discussions, heartfelt conversations, & spiritual encouragement. Whether you're new to the parish or simply seeking new friendships and faith-filled support, there's always a seat for you in our circle.

#### WANT TO JOIN US?

Email <u>middlemoms@divinegracepgh.org</u> or call 724-776-2888. ext. 1210



# IS GOD CALLING YOU?

Looking to get involved in Faith Formation in a non-teaching role? We have the perfect opportunity for you!

We are looking for Faith Formation **breakout station volunteers** to help facilitate a craft/service project, a game of Jeopardy, or help demonstrate a cool, pre-tested experiment! Adults or older teens are welcome!

For each Faith Formation session, we have two unique breakout stations to get kids out of the classroom and reinforce topics in ways that speak to your child's different learning styles, whether through games, music, science experiments, prayer and more.

Contact Emma at <u>esabados@divinegracepgh.org</u> if you'd like to use your gifts for the kids of Divine Grace Parish.

# EUCHARISTIC

#### -MONDAY-

Holy Redeemer Church 8:00 am to 8:50 am

#### —TUESDAY—

Saint Gregory Church 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm

#### -WEDNESDAY-

Saint Ferdinand Church 9:00 am to 6:30 pm

Holy Redeemer Church 9:30 am to 7:00 pm

#### —THURSDAY—

Holy Redeemer Church 8:00 am to 8:50 am

#### -FRIDAY-

Holy Redeemer Church 8:00 am to 8:50 am

Saint Ferdinand Church 9:00 am to 10:00 am

#### -SUNDAY-

Holy Redeemer Church 12:15 pm to 5:00 pm



The Week of August 24, 2025



#### —TUESDAY—

**Saint Gregory Church** 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm

#### **—WEDNESDAY—**

Holy Redeemer Church 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm

#### -SATURDAY-

Holy Redeemer Church 9:30 am to 10:30 am

Saint Ferdinand Church 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Saint Gregory Church 10:00 am to 11:00 am



# This week on Comment of the Comment

#### The Confessions of Saint Augustine, Littlest Saints

A child, a sinner, a saint. Join us as we share the story of Saint Augustine, tailored to our children, as he wrestles with God and comes to the faith.



#### Feast of Saint Monica, Catholic Saints

Saint Monica spent her life praying for the conversion of her beloved son, Augustine. In desperation, she sought help from a bishop who assured her, "The son of those tears surely will not



perish." Her faithful prayers helped shape Augustine into the Doctor of Grace. In this video, Dr. Gray and Dr. Sehorn reflect on her inspiring legacy.

#### The Confessions of Saint Augustine

Actor Leonardo Defilippis brings to life the poetry and passion of Saint Augustine of Hippo (A.D. 354–430) in a powerful, accessible performance. The play resonates deeply today, portraying Augustine's



journey through promiscuity, fatherhood outside marriage, and a "new age" cult—ultimately transformed by his pursuit of Truth and the steadfast prayers of his mother, Saint Monica.

Want to grow in faith on your own time? Divine Grace Parish offers free access to Formed, an online hub of Catholic movies, talks, studies, and kids' content. Visit <a href="https://signup.formed.org">https://signup.formed.org</a>, enter our parish name, and start exploring today.

Divine Grace Parish



#### This week at Saint Ferdinand Church

#### Monday, August 25

9:15 am Flame of Love, *Church Cry Room* 7:00 pm St. Peregrine Service, *Church* 

#### Tuesday, August 26

9:30 am Contemplative Prayer, Holy Family Room

#### Wednesday, August 27

9:30 am The Search training, *Upper Room* 

6:00 pm Life Teen, Youth Room

#### Thursday, August 28

7:30 pm Men's Club, McAndrew-Biller Hall



#### Saint Ferdinand Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm 724-776-2888, ext. 1101

Fax: 724-776-2378

#### **Becoming Catholic**

We all know someone who might be interested in being Catholic or in returning to the Church: a spouse, sibling, friend, or neighbor. With Inquirer Classes and Catechumen Classes starting soon, now is a good time to give them a gentle nudge. Every person's walk with the Lord is unique, and we provide formation and an initiation timeline that fit the individual's need.

If you know someone who might want to explore becoming Catholic, have them email Jason Gawaldo (jgawaldo@diviengracegh.org) or visit <a href="https://divinegracepgh.org/becomingcatholic">https://divinegracepgh.org/becomingcatholic</a> to learn more and to start the conversation.

# Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Montessori method of formation that utilizes child-directed activities, hands-on learning, and collaborative work. We are opening a Level I Atrium at St. Ferdinand beginning **September 17-18**. Level I Catechist Lisa Fix has written a brief description of the methodology. You'll find it at <a href="http://divinegracepgh.org/aboutCGS">http://divinegracepgh.org/aboutCGS</a>

#### The Search

What are you searching for? *The Search* leads people to the deepest questions of the human heart, exploring the meaning and purpose of life through a visually stunning, intellectually stimulating approach. *The Search* explores

life's biggest questions: What Do You Seek? Who Is Jesus? Who Are You? Am I Saved? Why a God? Why a Church? What's Our Story?

Who in your life do you wish knew Jesus better or was more connected with His Church? Consider inviting them to attend with you on **Wednesdays, September 24–November 5**, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm in Oldenski Hall at Saint Ferdinand. \$10 per person; financial assistance available. Sign up at <a href="https://divinegracepgh.org/thesearch">https://divinegracepgh.org/thesearch</a>

#### **REBOOT: Fire Up Your Joy!**

Mark your calendar for Reboot with internationally acclaimed speaker Chris Stefanick on **Wednesday, September 10** from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Saint Ferdinand Church. This high- energy event will awaken your faith, reignite your joy, and equip you with practical tools to live the life God created you for—a life of JOY!

Space is limited, so don't wait. Please visit <a href="https://buytickets.at/reallifecatholic/1662908">https://buytickets.at/reallifecatholic/1662908</a> to learn more or register.

#### Help for Healing and Grace

Saint Peregrine is the patron saint of cancer patients and all illnesses, one of many saints we can turn to in times of need. You are invited to join others to pray to Saint Peregrine to intercede for you or a loved one who may be suffering. We will gather on **Monday, August 25** at 7:00 pm in Saint Ferdinand Church for an anointing service and Holy Communion.

The Week of August 24, 2025



#### Holy Redeemer Office Hours

Mon - Fri: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Closed for lunch (12:30–1:00 pm) 724-758-7587, ext. 3002 Fax: 724-752-1466

#### This week at Holy Redeemer Church



#### Monday, August 25

6:30 pm Evangelization Team, Catholic Center Lunch Room

#### Wednesday, August 27

7:30 pm Book Discussion with Fr. Joe, Catholic Center

#### Friday, August 29

5:00 pm Bingo, Catholic Center

#### Saturday, August 30

10:00 am Ladies of Charity, Catholic Center Lunch Room

#### Sunday, August 31

4:00 pm Community Dinner, Catholic Center Lunch Room

#### First Friday Worship Night

#### **Eucharistic Adoration**

First Friday of every month Holy Redeemer Church – Ellwood City –

*Praise and Worship* 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

All-Night Adoration 8:00 pm to 9:00 am

#### Praise & Worship led by

Cara Atkinson, Vocals, and Deacon Erik Pintar, Keyboard

#### Summer Book Discussion with Fr. Joe

Father Joe Freedy will be discussing "Left to Tell" by Immaculee on Wednesday, August 27, at 7:30 pm in the Holy Redeemer Catholic Center. You'll be ready for Immaculee's presentation at Holy Redeemer Church on Tuesday, September 9.

#### **Unplug to Recharge with Jesus**

Women of Divine Grace Parish are invited to join our annual Women's Weekend Retreat. It will be held **October 17-19, 2025** at Saint Paul of the Cross Retreat Center in Pittsburgh. Come to relax, pray, worship, and reflect on this year's theme: PRAY ALWAYS, Pray all ways. To learn more and to register, visit <a href="https://passionistsspiritualplaces.org/st-paul-of-the-cross">https://passionistsspiritualplaces.org/st-paul-of-the-cross</a> or contact Kathy Z. at 412-716-8647, Veronica V. at 724-762-5346 or Kathy E. at <a href="mailto:kathohio@aol.com">kathohio@aol.com</a>.

#### Check out Hallow the #1 Catholic Prayer App

All parishioners (free or paid users) are invited to join our parish page on Hallow. There, you're able to create a profile, share prayer requests, take part in prayer challenges, and discover new ways to grow your faith. Already have the app? Go to the Community tab, search for Divine Grace Parish using zip code 16066, and join. New to Hallow? Get 12 months of premium content for just \$1.

- 1. Visit <a href="https://hallow.com/parish">https://hallow.com/parish</a>
- 2. Find Divine Grace Parish using the zip code: 16066
- 3. Set up your profile
- 4. Follow prompts for the \$1 trial or hit "skip" to use the free version
- 5. Save your login info to use once you download the app
- 6. Download the app, login, and start praying!



Hear her story of surviving the Rwandan genocide Tuesday, September 9 7:00 pm at Holy Redeemer Church



Hosted by Divine Grace Parish Free to attend, scan the QR code to RSVP!

#### Parish News and Events

Divine Grace Parish



#### This week at Saint Gregory Church

#### Friday, August 29

9:00 am School Mass, Church

#### **New Office Hours**

Beginning Friday, September 5, the Saint Gregory Office will be open Fridays from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

#### **Submissions for Bulletin**

Announcements are requested two Wednesdays before your desired publish date. Due to the Labor Day Holiday, announcements for **September 7** are due Tuesday, September 26. Email <a href="mailto:rdewitt@divinegracepgh.org">rdewitt@divinegracepgh.org</a>. Thank you!



#### Saint Gregory Office Hours

Mondays: 8:30 am to 12:00 pm Closed: Tuesday - Friday 724-776-2888, ext. 1101 Fax: 724-452-4064



#### Saint Gregory Knights Honored

Saint Gregory's Knights of Columbus Council 6177 has been honored for the second straight year with the distinction of Star Council, the International Organization's top award for local councils.

Grand Knight Thomas Szewczyk says the award recognizes overall excellence in sponsorship of faith formation programs and service, as well as membership and fraternal insurance benefits.

The Knights focus on four pillars: Faith, Family, Community, and Life, with their main goal of supporting their parish. For information on joining the Saint Gregory Knights of Columbus, please email paulfoster@zoominternet.net.

# Adoration, Confession, Mass Changes

A reminder that Adoration has resumed at Saint Gregory Church on Tuesdays from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Confessions are also heard on Tuesdays from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm, as well as Saturdays from 10;00 am to 11:00 am. With school back in session, Friday morning Mass returns at 9:00 am.



#### Help Make Beautiful Music

Thanks to all of our donors who are making the organ restoration project possible. To date, we have raised \$369,530 as we try to meet our goal of \$575,000. The new organ should be completed by the end of September, when we will have a blessing and organ presentation. More information to come.

#### **Help Others in Need**

The Saint Gregory Conference of Saint Vincent de Paul is welcoming new members to help those in need of temporary assistance paying bills, obtaining food, and more. Please prayerfully consider joining our team of confidential, kind-hearted volunteers. To learn more, contact Mary Ann Brill at <a href="mailto:SVSDsg@divinegracepgh.org">SVSDsg@divinegracepgh.org</a> or call Jennifer Livorse, Facilitator of Ministries, at 724-776-2888 ext. 1210.

# Praise the Lord, all you nations!

-Psalm 117:1



# DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH Deacon Formation Program

A new deacon class has been called... and the deadline to apply has been extended! Qualified Catholic men who feel called to serve the Church are invited to apply for the Diocese of Pittsburgh's Deacon Formation Program.

# A FINAL INFORMATION SESSION FOR APPLICANTS AND THEIR WIVES

will be held at the Diocesan Pastoral Center:

• Thursday, September 11 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm



If you feel called to a life of service, prayer, and ministry—this may be your moment to respond.

Scan the QR code to register, or call the Diaconate Office at 412-456-3124 for more details.



#### MyCatholicWill

Make sure the most sacred part of your life is protected, while easily completing your will. Help pass on the faith to your loved ones through MyCatholicWill.

Divine Grace Parish is making this service available at no charge to registered parishioners. To sign up, please visit <a href="https://divinegracepgh.org/mycatholicwill">https://divinegracepgh.org/mycatholicwill</a>

#### An Invitation to Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

All who serve in Divine Grace Parish are invited to a retreat on **Saturday, September 13**, from 9:00 am to noon at Saint Ferdinand's McAndrew-Biller Hall.

RSVP to Jennifer at <u>jlivorse@divinegracepgh.org</u> or call 724-776-2888, ext. 1210 or Alena at ext. 1107.

#### **Annual Parish Appeal**

The campaign funds formation, outreach and pastoral care of parishioners and those in need across our diocese. Additional support last year helped parish youth and young adult ministries, growth in religious education, and upkeep of our properties. To date, 1,270 donations have been received. To give to the 2025 Parish Appeal, please click on <a href="https://bit.ly/4h5LNvW">https://bit.ly/4h5LNvW</a>

#### March for Life in Harrisburg

Divine Grace Parish is sponsoring its annual bus trip to the PA March for Life at the State Capitol on **Monday, September 22**. All parishioners are invited, including children of any age if accompanied by a parent. Update: our bus will begin loading at Holy Redeemer Catholic Center (Third St.) at 5:45 am, returning around 8:00 pm. Fr. Joe Freedy will be joining us. Saint Ferdinand pilgrims, meet for 6:00 am Mass. We will depart at 6:45 am, returning around 7:00 pm. See our sign-up form in the church narthexes and offices, or online at <a href="https://divinegracepgh/march-for-life">https://divinegracepgh/march-for-life</a>

# Helping Parishes Promote Vocations

Answering Bishop Eckman's call to promote religious vocations, the Diocese of Pittsburgh is offering a workshop to help equip lay leaders to form vocation ministries in their parishes. The workshop will be held **Saturday**, **September 6** at the O'Connor Hall at the Diocesan Pastoral Center. To RSVP or for more information, please contact Jennifer at <u>jlivorse@divinegracepgh.org</u> or 724-776-2888, ext. 1210.

# Unpacking the Word

— Isaiah 66:18-21 —

If there was ever any doubt that the Lord always intended to extend His kingdom to all nations, He put that notion to rest through the mouth of the Prophet Isaiah. Our reading comes from the climactic ending of the book, just before the final verses describe the new heavens and the new earth. This is the most missionary section of the entire Old Testament, painting a clear picture not just of all nations being gathered before the Lord but of "fugitives" being sent out to even further nations.

The decidedly global scope is emphasized by two waves of nations, the first being gathered directly by the Lord and the second being brought in from all nations by the fugitive-missionaries. The global scope is further emphasized by the references to specific nations ("Tarshish, Put and Lud…") that echo the Table of Nations given in Genesis 10:1-32 shortly after the Flood. In the biblical narrative, these named nations are all of them.

Here's where we come in. You and I are the fugitive-missionaries of our day. We are among the nations who were drawn in by the Lord through the work of the missionaries of centuries ago. We are fugitives (other translations say survivors) of the culture of death in which we live, sent out by our Baptism, strengthened in Confirmation, and fed in Holy Communion to bring our brothers and sisters from all the nations to the Lord.

This is not just some prophecy from 700 B.C. about events around the time of the Apostles or in the distant future. It's about us, right now. St. Francis Xavier was sent as a missionary into Japan, and you and I are sent as missionaries into the streets of Ellwood City and Zelienople, into Seneca Valley and Riverside, into Costco and ALDI and Westinghouse, into our family reunions. It's our job to make sure that those who haven't heard of the Lord's fame or seen His glory hear of it and see it.

Share this reflection by visiting <a href="https://divinegracepgh.org/unpackingtheword">https://divinegracepgh.org/unpackingtheword</a>



Online registration for fall Faith Formation programs is open! Visit <a href="https://divinegracepgh.org/formation">https://divinegracepgh.org/formation</a> to read about the programs offered, see full schedules, and register your kids and family.



Director for Evangelization & Catechetical Ministries





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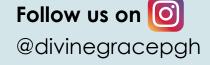
#### **Michael Assaf**

Ministry Coordinator of Youth and Young Adults



We like to keep in touch with our young people away at college, trade school, or in the military. Please email their name and temporary address to Kay Bellissimo at mailbag@divinegracepgh.org, drop a note in the collection basket in an envelope marked CAMPUS MAILBAG.

Thank you!





#### Youth Ministry at Holy Redeemer Church September 2025: SUNDAY SESSIONS

#### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**

Sunday Sessions: Carlo Acutis 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

#### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

Service Sunday: Community Dinner 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm

#### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

Sunday Sessions: Rosary 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

#### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**

Sunday Speaker: Deacon Erik Pintar 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm



# A New Year of Learning



#### First Day of School

New principal **Mrs. Michelle O'Shea**, faculty and staff, and **Father Jim Wehner** warmly welcomed students back to school on Thursday, August 21. The previous evening K-8 families took part in an orientation to help kick off the 2025-2026 academic year. All met in the church for some words from Father Jim and Mrs. O'Shea, and an introduction of the school staff, before visiting classrooms and meeting teachers.

Preschool orientation will be held at 9:00 am on Wednesday, September 3, for the 4-year-old class and on Thursday, September 4, for the 3-year-old class. Parents are asked to stay with their children for orientation, which will last about an hour. The first day of class for the 4-year-olds will be Friday, September 5. The first day of class for the 3-year-olds will be Tuesday, September 9.

#### **School Staff changes**

Saint Gregory School has announced several staffing changes for the new academic year:

#### **Arrivals**

Mrs. Michelle O'Shea is the new principal.

**Mrs. Rachel Sposito**, formerly physical education & Int. Social Studies, Science, Math, Health teacher, will be teaching second grade.

**Ms. Cathy Niebel** will be teaching music part-time at St. Gregory and at Butler Catholic School.

**Mrs. Mary Kay Tappe** will serve as a part-time classroom aide.

**Ms. Renee Cavalier** joins the afternoon daycare staff.

#### Thank You to Our Departing Staff

Interim principal **Dr. Audrey Bowser**Second grade teacher **Ms. Erin Porter**Spanish teacher **Mrs. Susana Garcia**Music teacher **Mrs. Erin Scott**Classroom aides **Mrs. Deb Drew, Mrs. Maureen Houlihan**, and **Mrs. Melissa Leck**Day care aide **Ms. Eileen Barnes** 

# SAINT GREGORY SCHOOL IS HIRING!

Saint Gregory School is seeking a part-time Spanish/Art Teacher and two classroom aides. If you know someone who may be interested, please ask them to email <a href="mailto:schooloffice@stgregzelie.org">schooloffice@stgregzelie.org</a>.

**In Celebration, In Prayer:** As a parish family, we lift up the names and needs of those in our hearts through prayer. If you would like to have sanctuary or prayer garden candles, or sanctuary flowers dedicated in honor or memory of a loved one, call 724-776-2888.



#### Sanctuary Candle



#### Sanctuary Flowers



#### Prayer Garden

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from a friend

Holy Redeemer
Altar Flowers: In Memory of
Tom Dunning
from Family

Saint Gregory
For the Living and Deceased
Members of Divine Grace Parish

Saint Ferdinand
A candle burns for:

Julia F. Eckman from Pap & Nunnie

**Thomas A. Richard, Sr.** from the Richard Family

Stanley Verona from John & Cathy

# LEASE PRAY FOR

Please keep in prayer those we've lost, those newly joined, and those newly baptized into our faith family.



# Deceased Parishioners

Ronin Costa
Lawrence DeCicco
John Earl
Diane Fencik
Martha Frishkorn
John Heisler III
Dionna Herp
Bernadette Kuszajewski

Thomas "Thom" McGee
David Michalski
Lettie Ross
Bernice Schoedel
Mary Jo Showalter
Brenda Stitzenberg
Doreen Tomon



#### **New Members**

Dr. Rita Bean
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Benson
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Brosky
Mr. & Mrs. Kerron Bunsee
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony
Cerrato

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Kocur
Mr. & Mrs. Evan Mastele
Mr. & Mrs. James Matthews
Mr. Donald McDonald
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew
McGuire
Mr. & Mrs. Brandon Miller
Mr. & Mrs. George Siegel
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Snodgrass
Mr. & Mrs. David Spess
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Tutor
Mrs. Theresa Vetrone
Mr. Matthew Viehe and
Taylor Hall
Mr. & Mrs. Zachary Wilson

Mrs. Christine Conner





#### Newly Baptized

Sophia Grace Burg
Cooper Elliot Clakeley
Eliza Jeanine Clakeley
Jane Parker Duggan
Maria Joe LaScola
Sullivan Pax McCormick
Gabriella Anne Pallack
Hallie Ann Pietrucha
Brooks Keith Powell
Rosalie Grace Powell
Emma Ruth Sasala
Ethan George Wheeler
Daniel Weber White
Cooper Lee Wolff

# Be a Light for all to see.

- Matthew 5:16



#### SIX STEPS TO SANITY

Join us for "Six Steps to SANITY," a faith-based support group focusing on addiction in families. Sessions will be held every Wednesday from **September 10** to **December 17**, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at the Saints John and Paul campus of Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish, with Zoom available. Learn how enabling and codependency contribute to addiction, and find healing and sanity through shared experiences and tools. Don't suffer alone – join others who understand. Contact Chico Ficerai at sixsteps@saintluke.net.





#### **USCCB Listening Sessions**

What does it mean to be a lay person in the Church today? The U.S. bishops want to hear from you as they prepare a pastoral document on the laity. Join a local listening session hosted by the Diocese of Pittsburgh. All are welcome. Free to attend.

Session Dates:

- **September 11** St. Benedict the Abbott, McMurray
- September 22 Ss. John & Paul, Sewickley (*Please note this meeting at Saints John & Paul Church is the nearest location*)
- October 16 Diocesan Pastoral Center, Pittsburgh
- October 22 St. Agnes, West Mifflin
- Evening sessions: 7:00-8:30 pm
- Afternoon session (October 16): 1:00-3:30 pm

For questions, contact Angela Gaughan, Director of Lay Ministry at agaughan@diopitt.org. To learn more or register, visit <a href="https://diopitt.org/usccb-listening-sessions">https://diopitt.org/usccb-listening-sessions</a>

#### Join us for a Jubilee Pilgrimage

Visit the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception during the Jubilee Year of Hope on **Saturday, September 13**.

The day includes a tour of the basilica, Mass, a Holy Hour, and opportunity for Confession. Bishop Emeritus David Zubik will join the pilgrimage.

The cost is \$100 per person and includes a boxed dinner for the ride home. For lunch, the cafeteria will be open for soup, sandwiches, fruit, muffins, coffee etc.

A bus to and from the shrine will be leaving from Saint Alphonsus Church, Saint Aidan Parish (221 Church Road, Wexford, PA 15090) and returning at 10:00 pm.

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