

Saint Ferdinand

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

Holy Redeemer 415 4th Street Ellwood City, PA 16117





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Father John P. Gallagher

Senior Priest jpgallagher@diopitt.org

Father Joseph M. Freedy

Senior Parochial Vicar ifreedy@diopitt.org

Father Daniel T. Kushner

Parochial Vicar dkushner@diopitt.org

Deacon Donald C. Pepe

dpepe@diopitt.org

Deacon Jeffrey J. Ludwikowski

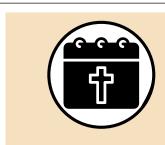
jludwikowski@diopitt.org

Deacon Joseph E. Ross

iross@diopitt.org

Deacon Erik L. Pintar

epintar@diopitt.org



PRESIDER SCHEDULE

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

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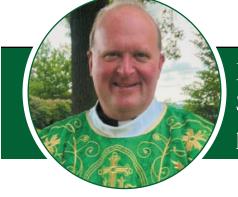
@divinegracepgh



@DivineGraceParishDioPitt

Bulletin cover: crucifixes in Saint Gregory (left), Saint Ferdinand (top) and Holy Redeemer (bottom)

Father Jim's Weekly Reflections The Week of September 14, 2025



For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal Life. - John 3:16

Feast of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

This weekend we celebrate a double anniversary. In the 4th century, the emperor Constantine erected a church in Jerusalem above the empty tomb of Jesus and a basilica on Calvary where Jesus was crucified. Both buildings would be destroyed twice-by the Persians and then the Muslims. Today's churches were dedicated in the 12th century. We also celebrate the discovery of the true Cross by Constantine's mother, the empress Saint Helena, in 326 A.D.

Our Lady of Sorrows

On Monday, we honor Mary by her title Our Lady of Sorrows which recounts her great suffering as she witnessed the scourging, torture, crucifixion, and death of her Son, Jesus Christ. We also are sorrowful because our sins participate in that suffering from 2,000 years ago.

LifeTeen Kick-Off

On Monday, September 15, we kick off our weekly LifeTeen youth group gatherings at Saint Ferdinand from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm for students grades 6-12. This Monday we will have a bonfire, a mechanical bull, and lots of food.

Parish Finance Council

I am grateful to the members of the Parish Finance Council who provide me with outstanding counsel on how we fund our parish ministries and serve as careful stewards of generous parishioner financial support. They are: Jamie Shearer (chair), Joe Ennis (vice chair), Kate Maseth-Ready (recording secretary), Amy Behun, Peter Boyer, Jay Cortez, Felicia DiNardo, Daniel Jenkins, Chelsey Knapton, Licia Lentz, Frank Lordi, Frances Tartal, and Andrew Welch. Our next meeting is Wednesday, September 17 at 6:30 pm at Holy Redeemer Catholic Center.

Parish Pastoral Council

The Pastoral Council gives the parish and myself guidance on the facilitation of parish ministries and the day-to-day activities of parish life. They are: Laura Dadey (chair), Judy Shearer (vice chair), Joyce Gaydosz (secretary), Beth

Markovitz, Dianne Unni, Shalini Savio, Patrick Savio, Tim Maloney, Angela Maloney, Devin Cortez, Rosina Betz, Valerie Bucek, and Lara Zelch.

First Confession Parent Meetings

We are preparing nearly 100 children to celebrate their first confession with the Sacrament of Penance. We would like to meet with all parents to review how we can work together in preparing the children. Parents can choose one of these meeting dates: Thursday, September 25 at 6:30 pm in Room 205 at Holy Redeemer Catholic Center, or Sunday, September 28, at 9:05 am in Saint Ferdinand's Oldenski Hall.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Starting this Sunday, we will resume the Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 10:00 am Masses at Saint Ferdinand and Saint Gregory churches. Children under the age of seven are invited to leave Mass after the Opening Prayer to get an explanation of the readings before returning to Mass at the Offertory. If any parent would like to assist, contact Jennifer Livorse (ilivorse@divinegracepgh.org) who will connect you with the leaders.

Oktoberfest at Saint Gregory School

Come and enjoy German food and music on Sunday, September 28 from 3:00 to 6:00 pm in the Bergman Event Center. All proceeds benefit Saint Gregory School.

DIVINE GRACE PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT



Sunday Collection total for August 30-31, 2025 = \$27,135 No Second Collection Online Giving (July 2025) = \$58,785 Parish Members = 18,797 Parish Households = 7,096

This weekend's second collection is for the Bishop's Education Fund. 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, September 13 – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Exaltation of the Holy Cross

4:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand Bonnie Mihok [For the Temporal & Spiritual Welfare] (Donna Weaver)

5:00 pm, Holy Redeemer † Frank L. Bellissimo (Family)

5:00 pm, Saint Gregory † Antoinette Granato (Stephen & Mary

Granato)

6:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Gabriel Tiracave (Family)

Sunday, September 14 – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Exaltation of the Holy Cross

8:00 am, Saint Ferdinand † Ann Maggaul (Tom & Peggy)8:00 am, Saint Gregory † Anna Geimer (Gene & Veronica

Vezzani)

9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Raymond Engle (Wife and Children) 10:00 am, Saint Ferdinand † Robert Krynicki (Wife & Children)

10:00 am, Saint Gregory † William Knass (Family)

11:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Helen Henkel & Leonard Anglin (Terri)

12:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Lorraine Borgese (Family)5:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Bridgette Sklarsky (Tom & Rita)

Monday, September 15 - Our Lady of Sorrows

8:00 am, Saint Gregory † Richard Bachmann (Steve & Carolyn

Miller)

Tuesday, Sept. 16 - Saints Cornelius & Cyprian

8:00 am, Saint Gregory † Metro Stefura (Chuck & Kara Nardone)

8:30 am, Saint Ferdinand † Carole Milito (Daughter, Stacey

Swentkowsky)

9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Paul Petrak (Carol Markantone)

Wednesday, September 17

8:00 am, Saint Gregory † Theresa Mogielski (Family)

8:30 am, Saint Ferdinand † For the Intentions of Mary Baker

(Dominic & Emily Baker)

9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Carmen Prestopine (Family) 7:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Florence & Raymond (Family)

7:00 pm, Holy Redeemer † Leona Puz (Betsy Petti)

Thursday, September 18

8:00 am, Saint Gregory † Walt & Bernice Velte (Tim Velte)
8:30 am, Saint Ferdinand † Edward Fuhr (David & Kathy Fuhr)
9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Helen Colosimo (Duane & Marilyn

Maietta)

Friday, September 19

Rocky Renaud)

9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Peter Popovich (Trish & Tim Gilchrist)

9:00 am, Saint Gregory † Joan Docchio (Staff & Teachers of

Saint Gregory School)

Saturday, September 20 – Saints Andrew Kim Taegon & Paul Chong Hasang & Companions

9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Jim Bartos (Ron & Alvera Blinn)

4:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Christopher A. Young (Charles & Joan

Spaulding)

5:00 pm, Holy Redeemer † Mary & Ollie Kasparek (Family)

5:00 pm, Saint Gregory † Andrew "Scooter" J. Soltesz, Jr. (Saint

Gregory KofC Council 6177)

6:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Robert Connolly (Rich & Rosemary

Huber)

Sunday, Sept. 21 – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Lott)

8:00 am, Saint Gregory † Gloria Carozza (Family)

9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Marthanne Conner (Therese

Hildebrand & Family)

10:00 am, Saint Ferdinand † G. Alan Osan (Dave & Bernadette

Pasquale)

10:00 am, Saint Gregory † Patty Gavrile Minteer (Cherlyn Rangel)

11:00 am, Holy Redeemer † John Kuczynski- Birthday (Wife &

Family)

12:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Robert Gwin (Diane Koski)

5:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Rafael Sebastiao Candido De Oliveira

(Daughter, Gabriella)

† = deceased

Eucharistic Rosary Congress

Divine Grace Parish will be offering Spiritual Works of Mercy by participating in the annual Eucharistic Rosary Congress. It is continual Adoration and hourly recitation of the Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament for seven days and nights. Our parish will cover the 24-hour period beginning **Monday, October 6** at two churches:

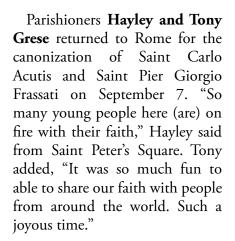
- Saint Gregory Church from 8:00 am Monday until Mass on Tuesday, October 7 at 8:00 am
- Saint Ferdinand Church from 9:30 am Monday until Mass on Tuesday at 8:30 am

Through Adoration and praying the Rosary we bring spiritual renewal to our parish by drawing participants into prayer and silence, in order to grow closer to Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary. To sign up as an adorer or to learn more, contact Jennifer at jlivorse@divinegrachpgh.org.



Divine Grace Parishioners at CANONIZATION







Parishioner **Sam Buchanan**, a student at the University of Notre Dame, who is in Rome studying architecture, also attended the canonization with friends. He called it, "an amazing experience."

Pope Leo XIV greets pilgrims. (Photo by Sam Buchanan)



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 4th 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

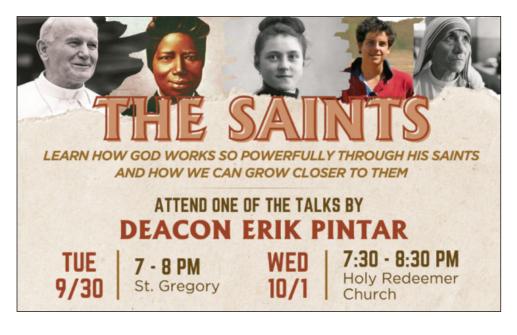




Oktoberfest 2025

Mark your calendar for the 4th Annual Oktoberfest, on **Sunday, September 28**, from 3:00 to 6:00 pm in Saint Gregory School's Bergman Events Center. There will be plenty of German food, drink, the Schnitzelbank drinking song, and dancing.

We need help if you have a few hours to volunteer, either for Saturday set up or during Oktoberfest. Please contact Christine at 724-776-2888, ext. 1117 or ckunz@divinegracepgh.org. Also, dessert donations are appreciated! Visit https://bit.ly/479zVrA



EUCHARISTIC

-MONDAY-

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

—TUESDAY—

Saint Gregory Church
Paused due to organ installation

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

—WEDNESDAY—

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

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

-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





—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 Common Time of the Common Time of the

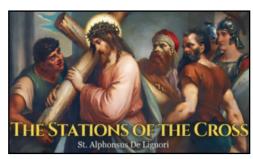
The Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Seven Sorrows of Mary is a traditional Catholic devotion featuring meditations on sorrowful episodes in the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Join us in prayer as we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows.



Stations of the Cross by Saint Alphonsus Liguori

The Augustine Institute presents a beautiful meditation on the Stations of the Cross by Saint Alphonsus Liguori, narrated by Dr. Christopher Blum. This prayerful reflection is



accompanied by the Schola Cantorum, chanting the traditional Catholic hymn Stabat Mater to aid your prayer.

The Seven Sorrows of Mary | Brother Francis

Join Brother Francis as he prays and explores the Seven Sorrows of Mary Devotion!



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 https://signup.formed.org, enter our parish name, and start exploring today.

Rosary Makers Welcome All

Share the Prayer Rosary Makers meet this coming week on **Tuesday**, **September 16**, from noon to 2:00 pm in Saint Ferdinand's library. New members are always welcome and rosaries are available in our three churches. Ask a member of the clergy to bless yours. Contact Joy to learn more: shareprayerrosary@divinegracepgh.org.

Women's Club Kick Off

The Divine Grace Parish Women's Club will meet on **Thursday, September 18** at 7:00 pm in Saint Ferdinand's McAndrew-Biller Hall. Committed to living out the teachings of Christ through community, faith and service, members are asked to come with ideas for future programs and speakers, and bring a friend!



Saint Ferdinand Office Hours

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

Fax: 724-776-2378

Monday, September 15

9:15 am	Flame of Love, Church Cry Room
9:30 am	Women Gathered, Holy Family Room
6:00 pm	LifeTeen Fall Kickoff, Youth Room
7:30 pm	Women Gathered, Holy Family Room

Tuesday, September 16

9:30 am	Contemplative Prayer, Holy Family
	Room
10:00 am	Bible Study, Upper Room
12:00 pm	Rosary Makers, Library
7:00 pm	Folk Choir rehearsal, Church

Wednesday, September 17

9:00 am

	Hall
1:00 pm	Book Circle, Holy Family Room
7:00 pm	Saint Vincent de Paul, <i>Library</i>
7:00 pm	Bereavement Support, Holy Family
_	Room

Comfort Blankets, McAndrew-Biller

Thursday, September 18

7:00 pm	Women's Club, McAndrew-Biller Hall
7:00 pm	Adult Choir. Church



Holy Smoke!

We are pleased to welcome former Steelers GM Kevin Colbert for a witness talk during an evening of fellowship and food. Father Joe Freedy again will host our gathering, on **Thursday, September 25**, beginning at 6:00 pm at Saint Ferdinand. Guys will gather for a pig roast, cigars, and listen to Colbert, a graduate of North Catholic who spent 23 seasons with the Steelers. No cost to attend, courtesy RSVP at https://divinegracepgh.org/talks

The Ministry of Angels

Angels in the Bible carry out God's will, they speak for Him, guide nations, protect His people, worship Him, and carry out His judgment.

In this series, George Smiga examines some of the Bible's most fascinating passages about angels, exploring their ministry on God's behalf, and drawing insights for our own spiritual lives. Because angels are mediators of God's presence and action, studying angels is studying God.

Tuesdays, **September 30 to November 4**, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the Upper Room, Saint Ferdinand. \$15 for a workbook; visit https://divinegracepgh.org/biblestudy to register or learn more.

The Search is About to Begin

Who is Jesus? Why a Church? What's our story? Explore life's biggest questions in this engaging series on Wednesdays, **September 24 to November 5**, from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm in Oldenski Hall at Saint Ferdinand. \$10 per person; financial aid available. Invite a friend and sign up at https://divinegracepgh.org/thesearch



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

NICENE CREED SERIES

This year marks the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. Join us for a three-part series of talks by Jason Gawaldo, Director of Evangelization & Catechetical Ministries, exploring the Creed. The presentations will be held on three consecutive Tuesdays, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the Holy Redeemer Catholic Center:

- **September 16** God the Father and Creator
- September 23 Jesus and the Paschal Mystery
- September 30 The Holy Spirit and the Church

There is no cost; courtesy RSVP at https://divinegracepgh.org/talks

Ministry of Hospitality

Divine Grace Parish is seeking Ushers/Ministers of Hospitality at all three churches to greet parishioners, assist with seating and accessibility, distribute bulletins, guide Communion lines, support the offertory, and help maintain a prayerful atmosphere. Adults, young adults, and responsible teens are invited to serve. Training is provided and scheduling is flexible. Contact Jennifer Livorse at ilivorse@divinegracepgh.org or 724-776-2888, ext. 1210.

Volunteer Babysitters Needed

ABC Moms needs babysitters during their meetings at Saint Ferdinand, held the **first Friday of each month** from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. The parish group offers a variety of educational, spiritual, and practical workshops designed to support every stage of motherhood, as well as fun activities. For more information, call 412-953-5822 or email <u>abcmoms@divinegracepgh.org</u>

Becoming Catholic

Many of us know someone who might be interested in being Catholic or 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 visit https://divinegracepgh.org/becomingcatholic or email

Jason Gawaldo (jgawaldo@divinegracegh.org) to learn more and to start the conversation.

Tuesday, September 16

7:00 pm The Creed, Catholic Center

Wednesday, September 17

6:30 pm Parish Finance Council, Catholic Center

Thursday, September 18

6:00 pm Social Club, Catholic Center

Friday, September 19

5:00 pm Bingo, Catholic Center

Sunday, September 21

1:00 pm Knotted with Love, Catholic Center

Lunch Room

3:00 pm Youth Ministry, Church Parking Lot

4:00 pm Community Dinner, Catholic Center Lunch Room



This week at Saint Gregory Church

Monday, September 15

7:00 pm Knights of Columbus, Blue Room

Saturday, September 20

9:00 am Marriage Prep lead couples orientation, School Library

Sunday, September 21

1:00 pm Parents of Fallen Away Catholics, School Library

Submissions for Bulletin

Announcements are requested two Wednesdays before the date you would like it published. Please email rdewitt@divinegracepgh.org.



Saint Gregory Office Hours

Closed: Monday – Thursday Friday: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm 724-776-2888, ext. 1101 Fax: 724-452-4064

Are You Up for the Challenge?

Our next Hallow Prayer Challenge, A Biblical Walk Through the Mass with Dr. Ed Sri, begins on **Monday, September 15**. This eight-day prayer challenge will help deepen your appreciation for the Mass. Join on our Hallow app Parish page. Find out more at https://divinegracepgh.org/hallow

Our Kids Don't Go to Church— What Should We Do?

Many parents experience frustration, anxiety, and even guilt when their children or other loved one drifts away from practicing the Catholic faith. What can be done? Deacon Don Pepe will lead a meeting to begin a dialogue to help discern if a ministry should be formed at Divine Grace Parish to learn more about this important issue and make an effort to do something about it. The meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 21** at 1:00 pm in the Saint Gregory School Library. To learn more or RSVP, visit http://divinegracepgh.org/fallenaway or email dpepe@diopitt.org.

An Invitation for Divine Grace Proclaimers

All Proclaimers from our three churches are invited to a retreat on **Saturday, September 27** from 9:00 am to noon in Saint Gregory's Blue Room. RSVP to Jennifer at <u>jlivorse@divinegracepgh.org</u> or call 724-776-2888, ext. 1210 or 1107.

Angels and Demons: Theology on Tap

Join Father Jim in the Blue Room at St. Gregory on **Thursday, October 9**, at 7:00 pm for a casual evening featuring drinks and appetizers, a 30-40 minute talk, and Q&A. There is no cost to attend; courtesy RSVP at https://divinegracepgh.org/talks

Mark your calendar for future Theology on Tap events at St. Gregory: **November 6**, **January 8**, **February 12**, and **March 5**.

Upcoming Parish Missions

Step into the season of hope and healing with the Hallow Pre-Advent Mission at Saint Ferdinand Church, featuring Nicholas De La Torre as he explores The Healing Power of Prayer.

- November 17: An inspiring talk on the Healing Power of Prayer
- November 18: A shorter reflection followed by Adoration, Confession, and Praise
- November 19: A powerful Healing & Liberation Mass

Then, prepare your heart for Advent with our Parish Mission at Holy Redeemer Church, led by Father Anthony Federico on **December 9 & 10**.

Both missions are free and open to all. Kindly RSVP at https://divinegracepgh.org/talks to reserve your spot and be part of these transformative experiences.

By Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world

BIG MONEY B I N G O

The Divine Grace Parish Men's Club is proud to present Big Money Bingo (formerly the Annual Super Bingo) and it's bigger than ever! **Saturday, November 8** at Saint Ferdinand's Oldenski Hall. Doors open at 4:30 pm, Early Bird Games: 5:45 pm, Regular Games: 6:00 pm. Over \$8,000 in total payouts! Tickets: Advance Purchase–\$35. Available by mail, in-person, or after weekend Masses on Oct. 25-26 and Nov. 1-2. At the Door–\$40. Only 400 tickets available–seats fill quickly!

Go to https://divinegracepgh.org/big-money-bingo to download the Advance Order Form. Proceeds benefit Divine Grace Parish ministries and local charities.

When You Sing, You Pray Twice

Divine Grace Parish invites singers of all ages to join one of our four choirs: **TWO ADULT CHOIRS** sing sacred music across all three churches; **FOLK CHOIR** (Grade 6–Adult) features guitar, piano, flute, and violin; and **CHILDREN'S CHOIR** welcomes singers starting in Grade 1 and sings monthly at Holy Redeemer.

To learn more and view the schedule, please visit https://divinegracepgh.org/music-ministries

Protecting the Unborn

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 https://divinegracepgh.org/march-for-life

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

Do you enjoy a nice evening out and meeting new people? Think about joining "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" On the **second Saturday of each month, from October through May**, you're invited to a different home to enjoy a delicious meal with fellow parishioners. Just bring a side dish to pass, usually for eight people. We currently have more than 40 members and would love to have you participate! The first dinner this fall will be held **October 11**. To learn more or sign up, contact Bernadette at 724-933-0518, Janie at 814-834-4275 or email gwc2d@divinegracepgh.org.

Catholic Library

Our parish library contains over 1,500 books and counting. Explore the online catalog at https://divinegracepgh.org/library. The physical library in Saint Ferdinand's Parish Center is located





next to the Upper Room (adults) and outside the Faith Formation Office (children). Our kids' section features board books, picture books, and chapter books that supplement the Faith Formation curriculum and give parents an easy way to reinforce faith at home. If you'd like to help us continue to grow our kids' section, scan the QR code to see our Amazon Wishlist.

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 https://divinegracepgh.org/mycatholicwill

Unpacking the Word

— Numbers 21:4b-9 —

After the Exodus, Israel wandered in the Sinai desert for forty years. This was not God's original plan. Rather, it was the result of repeated rebellion and refusal to follow God's plan. It all came to a head at Kadesh when all of Israel except for Joshua and Caleb decided they would rather go back to Egypt than enter Canaan, forfeiting their chance to enter the Promised Land. They would have to roam the desert for forty years, a highly symbolic number but also a length of time necessary for an entire generation to pass away.

During these forty years, the books of Exodus and Numbers record at least ten different times that Israel complained, often describing it as murmuring, against the Lord. Our reading today represents the tenth such complaint, which just might be the most egregious of the murmuring. Ever since the earliest days of the Exodus, even before they arrived at Mount Sinai, the Lord had been feeding Israel with manna, miraculous bread from heaven. Now nearly four decades later, even the second generation of Israelites begin to complain about "this wretched food." In punishment, the people were plagued by fiery serpents and eventually cried out to God for help.

Notice how the Lord responded. He didn't take away the serpents or their bite. Instead, he allowed the consequence of rebellion to stand, but he also provided a remedy. After a person was bitten, he could look upon a bronze serpent on a pole, still the icon of the medical profession today, and he would live.

God is a good Father, and he will allow us to experience the consequences of our sin and rebellion so that we can learn from our mistakes. But he is also a forgiving Father who would rather die than risk eternity without us. And so centuries later, healing would come not from a serpent lifted on a pole but from a Savior lifted on a cross. Jesus took the consequences of our sinful rebellion upon himself so that we could experience forgiveness. May we never murmur over so great a gift.

Visit https://divinegracepgh.org/unpackingtheword to share this reflection.

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, 1,277 donations have been received. To give to the 2025 Parish Appeal, please click on https://bit.ly/4h5LNvW



Director for Evangelization & Catechetical Ministries



Marriage Prep Weekend

Engaged couples, join us

October 17 & 18 at Saint

Ferdinand. No fee, scan the

QR code to sign up.



Follow us on O

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Michael Assaf

Ministry Coordinator of Youth and Young Adults



Upcoming Schedule - Saint Ferdinand Youth Room September 15, 22 & 29

Youth Ministry at Holy Redeemer Church September 2025: SUNDAY SESSIONS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

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

We'll be helping our neighbors in need, raking up leaves in the yards of elderly residents and others who need assistance, on Sunday, November 9 beginning at noon. We will start with donuts and refreshments at Saint

Gregory Church's upper parking lot. Sign up by Friday, October 24 to get a Project Giving Tree t-shirt. If you are over age 18 you will need Safe Environment clearances. Contact Christine at ckunz@divinegracepgh.org. Scan the QR code to sign up. Call/text Rylee at 724-766-5620 or Ayron at 412-585-2524 to learn more or if you know someone who needs help.



SEPTEMBER 15TH · 6-9PM a ST. FERDINAND **Bonfire + FREE food!** Reserve your spot for our fall kickoff to be entered into our raffles! \$150 Amazon Gift Card Grand Prize for whoever stays on our Mechanical Bull the longest!



Welcome New Staff Members

Please join us in welcoming two new staff members to Saint Gregory School.

> Ms. Cathy Niebel is our new part-time music teacher.

Mrs. Heather Yesko is our new part-time Spanish and art teacher.

Both are excited to be joining our staff and sharing their love of music and art with the children.

We are still looking for a preschool aide for Friday mornings. Please contact Mrs. O'Shea at moshea@stgregzelie.org.

Eat Out, Help Raise Money

Our first Dine & Donate will be held Tuesday, September 16 at North Park Lounge. Parents, bring the form emailed to you or located in the back of Saint Gregory Church, and the restaurant will donate 20% of your check to the school.



Please help us spread the word about Saint Gregory School by displaying a school sign in your yard.

We have enough for every family! Please grab one the next time you're in the building. Feel free to take a few extras if you have family or friends with good locations to display them. Thank you!





25th Annual ST. GREGORY SCHOOL **AUCTION & SOCIAL**

Nose Bleed Tickets \$50 in Advance or \$60 at the Door Field Pass with Unlimited Games \$75 in Advance or \$100 at the Door

Saturday November 8th Bergman Events Center at 6pm

Must be 21 and up to attend







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TAILGATE GAMES



FOOD & BAR

Interested in helping provide some needed items for the evening? Please scan QR code to visit our Amazon wishlist! **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

A candle burns at Saint Ferdinand

For Robert Krynicki from Wife & Children Holy Redeemer

Altar Flowers: In Memory of
Bruno & Victoria Bellissimo
from Tressa Bellissimo

Tabernacle Flowers: In Memory of
Paul & Maria Alesso
from Tressa Bellissimo

Saint Ferdinand
A candle burns for:

Theresa Mogielski from Family

Dorothy Mellon from Joyce & Carl Mengel

Please keep them in your prayers

Deceased Parishioners

Nancy Boyle
Patricia Curtis
Daniel Dugas
Richard Fec
Laura Gerrich
Janet Gorman
Vincent Krupa
William Metzger
Amy Navoney
Jane O'Donnell
Joan M. Phillips
Charles Rice
Milton Stauber
Regina M. Stiffler
Norma L. Zingaro



New Members

Miss Maya Albanowski Mr. & Mrs. John Bauer Mr. & Mrs. Jason Bowser Mr. & Mrs. Marco Carlini

Mr. & Mrs. Luis Campos Mr. & Mrs. Alex Conway Miss Madison Delisio Mr. & Mrs. John DeCaria Miss Katherine Davila Mr. Ken Maleski & Dr. Peg Durachko Mrs. Frances Fradenburgh Ms. Valeria Fernandez-Burgos Mr. & Mrs. Maxim Fernandez Burgos Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Haradzin Mr. & Mrs. Bret Hoffman Mr. Brian Jarvis Mr. & Mrs. Jason Jeung Mr. & Mrs. Donny Leishman Mr. & Mrs. Cody Kastelic Miss Alexa Mitro Miss Sarah McCarty Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Musi Mr. Andy Piccuta Mr. & Mrs. Corey Price Mr. & Mrs. Zachary Panza Mr. & Mrs. Wellington Rody Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Scherer Mrs. Sherri Snyder Dr. Jesse Valentino



Newly Baptized

Lucille Mae Blanchette
Whittaker Jeffrey Brown
Amelia Ray Bufalino
Haley June Driscoll
Kinley Ruthann Ellek
Brooks Francis Ellek
Blakelee Ann Hoffman
Weston Liam McCarthy
Sebastian Alonso Montes
Lennon Rae Myers
Samuel Robert Overstreet
John Robert Pappaterra
Ephie Marie Xenakis



Newly Married

Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Cassandro Mr. & Mrs. Anthony DiSaia Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Herzog Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Kiefer



Be a Light for all to see.

- Matthew 5:16





Chimbote Dinner Set for October 13

For six decades the Diocese of Pittsburgh has supported the poor in Chimbote, Peru. More than 100,000 children have been born in a maternity hospital, and a health clinic provides medical and spiritual care to hundreds and even thousands of local residents every week. Both were built from donated funds. We hope you can attend the Chimbote Mission Dinner on **Monday, October 13**, 6:00 pm, at the Sheraton Station Square in support of this worthy cause. To register or donate, visit www.chimbotefoundation.org

Women Discerning Their Vocation

All women 18-40 years old who are discerning their vocation are invited by the Passionist Nuns for a weekend retreat from **Friday, October 10**, 6:00 pm to **Sunday, October 12**, 4:00 pm. It is a wonderful opportunity for a weekend away to pray and seek God's will for your life. The schedule includes Mass, Adoration, Liturgy of the Hours, two optional talks, and generous spaces for silence and prayer. There is no cost to attend; private single retreat rooms and all meals will be provided at their community in South Pittsburgh.

Details and registration information is available at https://www.passionistnunspgh.org/retreat

New Life After Divorce

If you or someone you know is seeking healing or clarity after a divorce, be sure to attend a diocesan workshop on the annulment process. Topics include Marriage Law, Types of Annulments, and When and How to Begin a Petition.

The session will be held on **Thursday, September 25** at 7:00 pm in Saint Ferdinand's Oldenski Hall. To learn more, please visit https://diopitt.org/annulments



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