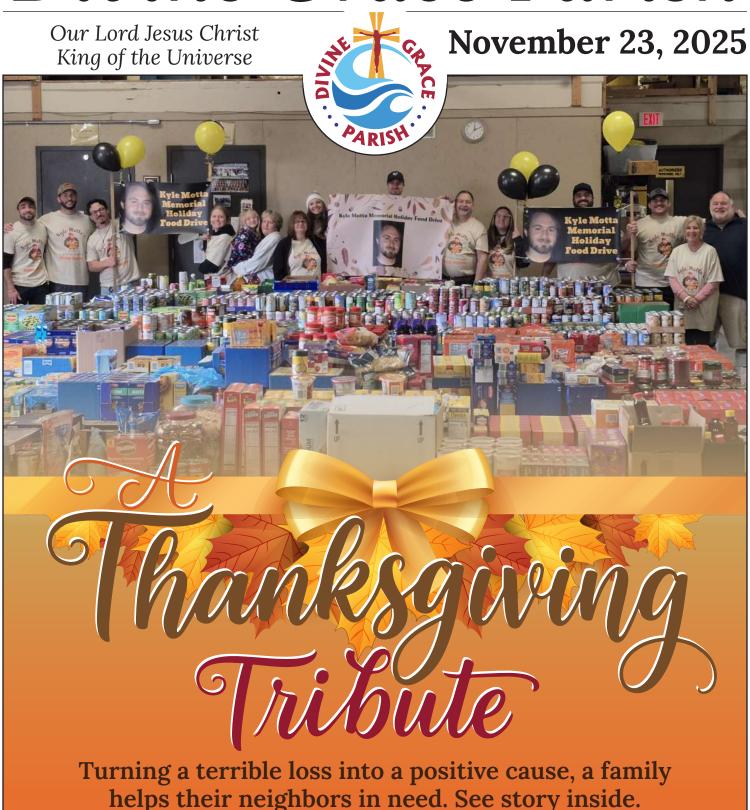
Divine Grace Parish



Saint Ferdinand Church

2535 Rochester Road Cranberry Twp., PA 16066 Saint Gregory Church

2 West Beaver Street Zelienople, PA 16063

Holy Redeemer Church 415 4th Street

Ellwood City, PA 16117





Father James A. Wehner

Pastor jwehner@diopitt.org

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 Joseph E. Ross

jross@diopitt.org

Deacon Erik L. Pintar

epintar@diopitt.org



@divinegracepgh



@DivineGraceParishDioPitt



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

Administrative Staff

Luma Bunni

Executive Assistant/Office Manager 724-776-2888, ext. 1105 lbunni@divinegracepgh.org

Christine Kunz

Safe Environment Coordinator 724-776-2888, ext. 1117 ckunz@divinegracepgh.org

Deacon Don Pepe

Coordinator of Plant Operations 724-776-2888, ext. 1211 dpepe@diopitt.org

Chris Razani

Maintenance Supervisor 724-758-7587, ext. 3009 crazani@divinegracepgh.org

John Grenci

Coordinator of Finance 724-776-2888, ext. 1109 jgrenci@divinegracepgh.org

Linda McAfee

Senior Bookkeeper 724-776-2888, ext. 1104 lmcafee@divinegracepgh.org

Bob De Witt

Director of Communications 724-776-2888, ext. 1116 rdewitt@divinegracepgh.org

Katerina Deem

Designer/Digital Strategist kdeem@divinegracepgh.org

Bulletin Layout by PilarDesigns

Bulletin cover: The Motta Family and friends with the food donated in honor of their late son, Kyle.

Pastoral Staff

Jennifer Livorse

Facilitator of Parish Ministries 724-776-2888, ext. 1210 ilivorse@divinegracepgh.org

Alena Kucan

Administrative Coordinator for Liturgy & Parish Ministries 724-776-2888, ext. 1107 akucan@divinegracepgh.org

Jason Gawaldo

Director for Evangelization and Catechetical Ministries 724-776-9177, ext. 1317 igawaldo@divinegracepgh.org

Emma Sabados

Coordinator of Faith Formation 724-776-9177, ext. 1406 esabados@divinegracepgh.org

Kay Bellissimo

Coordinator of Faith Formation 724-758-7587, ext. 3006 kbellissimo@divinegracepgh.org

Michael Assaf

Coordinator of Youth & Young Adults 724-776-9177, ext. 1316 massaf@divinegracepgh.org

Hannah Repasky

Assistant Coordinator of Youth hrepasky@divinegracepgh.org

Kevin Johnson

Organist & Sacred Music Minister 724-776-2888, ext. 1111 kjohnson@divinegracepgh.org

Divine Grace Parish Social Services: 724-758-3465

Father Jim's Weekly Reflections The Week of November 23, 2025



Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.

Solemnity of Christ the King

In 1925, Pope Pius XI instituted this feast following World War I and with the rise of tyranny that would bring Hitler, Stalin, and Mussolini. Christian Europe no longer trusted in the sovereignty of Almighty God. Today, our feast celebrates the real power of God in Jesus Christ who inaugurated the Kingdom of God that the prophets preached in the Old Testament and the miracles of Jesus proved. As we prepare for Advent, let us commend ourselves to the Kingship of Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving Day Masses

As you finalize your schedule for Thanksgiving Day, consider giving thanks at Mass that day. We will celebrate Mass at 9:00 am at each church. The priests will be blessing your food if you would like to bring a basket. We will also distribute blessed bread that you can enjoy during your dinner. Happy Thanksgiving!

Catholic Roots of Thanksgiving

On September 8, 1565, the first Thanksgiving celebration took place in St. Augustine, Florida with the celebration of Mass and a dinner feast between Native Americans and Spanish settlers. The second Thanksgiving took place on April 30, 1598, in Texas when Don Juan de Onate declared a Thanksgiving Mass was to be celebrated along with a meal. The third Thanksgiving with which we are most familiar was celebrated in 1621 by the Pilgrims and Native Americans. However, seven years earlier the Native American Squanto was captured and sold as a slave. The Franciscans bought his freedom, he was baptized, learned English and ended up in England before arriving in Plymouth where he assisted the Puritans in the 1621 Thanksgiving.

Assisting Those in Need

Special thanks to all who staff our food bank at Holy Redeemer Church, which is open Tuesday- Thursday, as well as our food banks at Saint Ferdinand and Saint Gregory churches. The two Saint Vincent de Paul Society conferences at Saint Gregory and Saint Ferdinand also

assist many people with food, paying bills, getting furniture, and much more.

Remembering Divine Grace Parish

As we prepare for the holidays with decorations, special meals, and gifts, please consider our parish in your year-end giving. We are blessed by your generosity which allows us to staff the many initiatives and ministries that we highlight each week in the bulletin. This is only possible because of your support. Thank you!

Mass Attendance Increase

Every year, the diocese asks each parish to conduct a head count at all weekend Masses during the month of October. Here are our numbers the past two years, taking the highest counts each week:

In 2024: Holy Redeemer - 1,037; Saint Ferdinand -2,564; Saint Gregory - 717. 2024 Average Weekend Mass Attendance: 4,318.

Our 2025 count: Holy Redeemer - 974; Saint Ferdinand -2,685; Saint Gregory - 827. 2025 Average Weekend Mass Attendance: 4,486. This represents an increase of 3.9%. From 2022 when our parish was created, weekend Mass attendance has risen from 12.5% of registered parishioners to 23.8%. With 18,837 parishioners and 4,486 people attending weekend Mass, the ministry of evangelization remains a priority.

DIVINE GRACE PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT



Sunday Collection total for November 8-9, 2025 = \$46,914

Second Collection = \$13,347

(for Parish Appeal)

Parish Members = 18,837

Parish Households = 7,100

This weekend's second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Next weekend, the Little Sisters of the Poor will be collecting after Masses. 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, November 22 - Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

4:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Harriet Medwid (Family)
5:00 pm, Holy Redeemer † John Leopardo (Elvy Kirkham)
5:00 pm, Saint Gregory † G. Alan Osan (Tom & Linda Kilian)
6:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Dick Hadley (Mary Jane)

Sunday, November 23 – Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

8:00 am, Saint Ferdinand † Kanavit Choonit (Dad & His Sister)
 8:00 am, Saint Gregory † Marilyn Beltsterling (Don & Karen Koger)
 9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † William & Catherine Shuttleworth

(Children)

10:00 am, Saint Ferdinand † Greg Miller (Family)

10:00 am, Saint Gregory † James E. Smith (Wife, Carole)
11:00 am, Holy Redeemer Riverside & Ellwood City School

Families - For their Temporal and

Spiritual Welfare (Friend)

12:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Robert Gwin (Diane Koski)5:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Mary Slusser (Slusser Family)

Monday, November 24 - Saint Andrew Dung-Lac

8:00 am, Saint Gregory † Dr. Charles Zeigler (Gilbert & Philomena Lawrence)

8:30 am, Saint Ferdinand † Frank McKevitt (Marge Macher)9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Jeff Tobolski (Tobolski Family)

Tuesday, November 25

8:30 am, Saint Gregory † Dale Benedum (Rosemary Huber) 8:30 am, Saint Ferdinand † Joan & Bernard Cauley (Family) 9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Anna Aiken (Cathy Hulick)

Wednesday, November 26

8:00 am, Saint Gregory † Jerome Docchio (John & Carol Todorich)

8:30 am, Saint Ferdinand † Alice Kehoe (Lori & Jack Carey)
9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † LuAnn Santillo (Nick & Kathy Nardone)

7:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Karl Kushnereit (K of C 11838)7:00 pm, Holy Redeemer For the Eradication of Evil within our

Parish Boundaries

Thursday, November 27 - Thanksgiving Day

9:00 am, Saint Ferdinand † Nellie Skubak (Kavanagh Family)
9:00 am, Saint Gregory † Dolores "Dee" Musher (Rich & Cecilia
Yurocko)

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9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Robert Perrone (Rina Perrone)

Friday, November 28

8:30 am, Saint Ferdinand † Chuck Haefner (Venturella Family)
9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Raymond Engle - Anniversary (Wife &

Children)

9:00 am, Saint Gregory † Louise Massung (Chris Tyson)

Saturday, November 29 - 1st Sunday of Advent

9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Anne Elam (Knotted with Love Group)
4:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Linda Stevens (Stevens Family)
5:00 pm, Holy Redeemer † Mary Jo Cioffi (Husband & Family)
5:00 pm, Saint Gregory † Lynda Vezzani (Gene & Veronica

Vezzani)

6:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Jim Kennelly (Mary Ann Kennelly)

Sunday, November 30 – 1st Sunday of Advent

8:00 am, Saint Ferdinand † Bridget Sklarsky (Husband & Children) 8:00 am, Saint Gregory † Butch Kotuby (Padu-Marlene LaCava) 9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Anthony & Elizabeth Pratt (Daughter,

Phyllis)

10:00 am, Saint Ferdinand † Michael Galata (Mom & Dad)
10:00 am, Saint Gregory † Richard Litz (Slifkin Family)
11:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Mary Prestopine (Family)

12:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Patricia Carusone (Kathleen & Gary)

5:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Fr. Thomas Galvin

† = deceased

An Abundance of Food and Gratitude

Divine Grace parishioners are known for their generosity and charitable works. Community members have joined them to support a local family who is turning a tragic loss into help for their neighbors.

To honor their son who died in 2020 at age 24, parishioners Sandy and Vince Motta, along with daughter Jamie, began the annual Kyle Motta Memorial Holiday Food Drive through the Gleaners Food Bank at Saint Ferdinand Church. An idea that began with family, friends and co-workers collecting food before Thanksgiving has become a community-wide effort. This



Donations at Holy Redeemer Food Bank

month they dropped off donations that filled 19 tables. The food was distributed on November 19.

"We can't do this without the support of our local community," said coordinator **Linda Heery**, a parishioner who has volunteered at the food bank for more than two decades. "We serve 75 to 85 families a month. When I began, we helped about 35 families."

Like many food banks, Gleaners accepts non-perishable items like rice, pasta, cereal, peanut butter, canned goods and

paper products. Cash donations are used to buy meat and dairy products like milk and eggs, discounted and delivered for Distribution Day.

At **Holy Redeemer Church**, the Ladies of Charity roll up their sleeves to lead the parish Thanksgiving Food Drive. Parishioners last month donated ingredients for Thanksgiving dinner and dessert.

The Ladies of Charities help bag the items, which are given to clients with their regular food distribution. They also received grocery gift cards through the KDKA-TV Turkey Fund. "This is part of our mission, fulfilling the Corporal Works of Mercy to feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty," says president **Annie Raybuck.** "Parishioners are very generous with their donations."

Saint Gregory Church is part of the Southwest Butler Food Cupboard, according to volunteer and board member **Kristin Stumm**, who's been involved for 20 years. The interdenominational effort of nine churches in the Zelienople-Harmony area serves about 100 clients. "The need is up and people are responding," Kristin said. "I'm very grateful."

Volunteers are welcome. Call Kristin at 724-831-9441.

"Many people didn't know there is a need here," said Linda Heery. "There's been greater awareness in recent years, and donations have increased as well."

Schedule

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
Saturday (Vigil)	5:00 pm
Sunday	8:00 am
	10:00 am



Learn About Endowment Program

Many parishioners faithfully and generously support Divine Grace Parish through their weekly offertory giving. But what about leaving a lasting legacy?

The new Catholic Foundation for Greater Pittsburgh is creating endowed funds at parishes for donors to provide a permanent source of support with gifts that reflect their values and help the programs and ministries they care about.



Common legacy gifts include estate commitments such as bequests and retirement plans, designations of life insurance policies, personal or corporate matching gifts, and trusts and annuities. Because they are typically funded with assets, legacy gifts usually cost donors nothing during their lifetimes. You may designate your donation your donation or leave it unrestricted. It's an opportunity to sustain our parish, advance our faith, and endow our future.

Two education sessions are scheduled for parishioners to learn more. On **Thursday, December 11** at 9:00 am, we will gather for a continental breakfast in Saint Ferdinand's McAndrew-Biller Hall; the meeting will begin at 9:30 am. An online session also is available on **Tuesday, December 16** at 6:30 pm. Use this Zoom link: https://shorturl.at/X4OOq Learn more at www.cfgpitt.org.

From ESPN to the Priesthood

Father Anthony Federico grew up playing and following sports, so landing a job at ESPN was a dream come true. Or so he thought—until it turned into a nightmare. But God ultimately led him to the priesthood and today he helps others discern their vocation.



Meeting people where they're at, Father Anthony shares his powerful testimony and fires up the faithful with a bold mission — "to pray for a thousand priests, a thousand deacons, a thousand religious sisters, and a thousand strong Catholic marriages." Be inspired by Father Anthony's story during our Advent Parish Mission at Holy Redeemer Church, set for **December 9-10**. Schedule:

- Tuesday, December 9, 7:00 pm talk From ESPN to the Priesthood: How the Eucharist Changed My Life
- Wednesday, December 10, 9:00 am Father Anthony celebrates Mass, followed by his talk, *Under the Gaze of Jesus: The Difficulty and Beauty of Eucharistic Adoration*; 7:00 pm talk *Desire: Coming to Know the Heart of the Father*

No cost; courtesy RSVP at https://divinegracepgh.org/talks

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 tormed

Week of November 23, 2025

Sacred Art: Christ the King

Sit down with Dr. Ben Akers and SACRED Taylor Kemp as they explore Catholic theology through the lens of Sacred Art. In this episode, they discuss the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.



Who is Jesus Christ? with Sr. Bethany Madonna

Sister Bethany Madonna from the Sisters of Life dives into the truth about who Jesus Christ is. Discover the love of Jesus for yourself and listen to Sr. Bethany Madonna!



Who is Jesus? The Search Episode 5

The most beautiful part of this story is this, we can know God's love, personally. This is the person of Jesus. But how did this seemingly insignificant carpenter born into poverty in a dusty corner of the



Roman Empire become the most pivotal figure in all of history?

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.

Early Submission for Bulletin:

Due to the upcoming holidays, please send your announcement two Mondays before the publish date to rdewitt@divinegracepgh.org. Thank you!



Divine Grace Parish



This week at Saint Ferdinand Church

Monday, November 24

9:15 am Flame of Love, *Church Cry Room*9:30 am Women Gathered, *Holy Family Room*10:00 am God's Precious Preemies, *Library*7:00 pm St. Peregrine Prayer Service, *Church*

7:00 pm Women Gathered, Children's Liturgy Room

Tuesday, November 25

9:00 am Flame of Love, Children's Liturgy Room

9:30 am Middle Moms, *Bridal Room* 10:00 am Bible Study, *Upper Room*



Saint Ferdinand Office Hours

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

Fax: 724-776-2378

Giving Tree at Saint Ferdinand

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is again relying on the generosity of Divine Grace parishioners to help our less fortunate families and neighbors this Christmas. Please take a tag from the Giving Tree in the Saint Ferdinand Church narthex beginning this weekend. We are asking for \$25 gift cards for parishioners in need, Gleaners

Food Bank recipients, special needs residents of McGuire Memorial, and residents of UPMC Cranberry Place. Please place gift cards in the boxes under the tree by **Sunday, December** 7. Be sure to include the tag and value of the gift card.

Sign Up for Lunch with Santa

Join the Women's Club for their annual Lunch with Santa on **Saturday, December 6** at 11:30 am in Oldenski Hall. Enjoy crafts, face painting, raffles, party bags (ages 1+), and a visit from Santa! Lunch includes hot dogs, mac & cheese, applesauce, drink, and dessert. \$8/person; free for children under one. To reserve, call Peggy at 724-538-9522.

Advent Retreat on Saint Joseph

Get your Advent off to a good start with a one-day retreat reflecting on Saint Joseph's example of courage, fidelity, and his love and care for Mary and Jesus. The retreat will include an overview of praying with Scripture using Lectio Divina, Visio Divina and Imaginative Contemplation, silent Scripture-based prayer, and group

reflection. It will be led by Theresa Rossi on **Saturday**, **December 6**, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, in Saint Ferdinand's Holy Family Room. The \$10 cost includes lunch and refreshments. RSVP by **Nov. 26** to <u>ignatian@divinegracepgh.org</u> or call 724-316-5575.

Support for Special Needs Programs

The Knights of Columbus, Council 11838 wishes to thank everyone who took part in their bottle campaign. Parishioners donated \$4,104 to support Saint Anthony School Programs and McGuire Memorial's work with special needs children and adults. Thank you!

Prayers for Healing

The Saint Peregrine Prayer Service will be held on **Monday, November 24** at 7:00 pm in Saint Ferdinand Church. All are welcome to come pray for the sick and support one another.

Oldenski Hall Renovation

All parishioners are invited to a town hall meeting on renovation options for Oldenski Hall on **Sunday, December 14** at 1:30 pm in the hall. You may recall members of Saint Ferdinand Parish raised \$2.7 million from the Church Alive campaign to renovate the space. Having completed projects at Holy Redeemer and Saint Gregory churches, we are now ready to hear from a steering committee that has been studying potential recommendations for Oldenski Hall.



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



Sunday, November 30

9:00 am Social Club trip to Presque Isle Casino

4:00 pm Community Dinner, Catholic Center Lunch Room

NOTE: There is no Bingo the Friday after Thanksgiving. Bingo resumes **Friday**, **December 5**.

Share Your Gifts

Are you musically inclined? Love working with kids? Enjoy organizing? There's a ministry waiting for you! Explore ways to serve that match your passions. Contact the parish office to learn more.

Advent - the Time to Shine

The Shining Star Tree will be in the narthex of Holy Redeemer Church beginning **Saturday**, **November 22**, to help families in need this Christmas. Please take a Star tag from the tree and return it with the requested gift, wrapped, with the tag securely attached to the outside. Please drop it off in the narthex or at the Social Services Office in the Catholic Center by **Sunday**, **December 7**. Thank you for your kindness!

Here Comes Jolly Ol' Saint Nick

The Social Club will host their annual Children's Christmas Party on **Sunday, December 7** from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Holy Redeemer Catholic Center. No cost for lunch and activities that include crafts, face painting, an Ugly Sweater Contest, gifts, and of course a visit from Santa. Please RSVP with children's names and ages by calling 724-657-4661.

Warm Coats, Warm Hearts

New and gently used coats are needed for women, men and children of all ages. If you are able to help, please bring your coats to the Holy Redeemer Catholic Center lunch room on **Thursday, December 4** from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm or **Friday, December 5** from noon to 3:00 pm. If you are in need of a warm coat, distribution will take place on **Saturday, December 6** from 9:30 am to noon at the Catholic Center.

Start the New Year in a New Car

Car raffle tickets are available in the narthex of our churches following Mass. Can you help sell tickets? The parish is raffling off a 2025 Chevy Trax LT. Tickets are \$25 each or 5 for \$100. Click here: https://bit.ly/3UUqJjR or scan the QR code to sign up and see the raffle rules.





Get Your Parish Apparel

Divine Grace Parish's online store is ready to take your merchandise orders at https://bit.ly/DGPMerch

Shop for shirts, hoodies, hats, jackets, mugs, bottles and more until **Tuesday, December 23**. Purchases will be delivered directly to your home. If you order by **Saturday, November 29**, you'll receive a free parish t-shirt!

Any questions, email Jennifer at <u>ilivorse@divinegracepgh.org</u>.

Parish News and Events Divine Grace Parish



This week at Saint Gregory Church

Saturday, November 29

8:00 am Catholic Men's Fellowship, School Library



Almighty Father, You are lavish in bestowing all Your gifts, and we give You thanks for the favors You have given to us. We ask that You continue to protect us and to shelter us in the shadow of Your wings. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Saint Gregory Office Hours

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

Christmas Gift Cards

To offer some Christmas cheer to folks needing support, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Saint Gregory Conference will distribute Christmas gift cards on Wednesday, December 17, 10:30 am in the church narthex. Recipients must complete paperwork before the distribution and live in one of four zip codes: 16063, 16037, 16033, or 16123. To reserve a gift card, email SVDPsg@divinegracepgh.org or call the church office at 724-776-2888 by 3:00 pm on Friday, December 12. God bless!

Angel Tree Appeal

The Angel Tree in the Saint Gregory Church narthex is a Christmas gift-giving program for people in need. Please take a gift tag from the tree and sign the sheet next to it. Return your wrapped gift with the tag securely attached to the outside of it, placing it next to the tree by Tuesday, December 9.

Questions? Email SGAngelTree@divinegracepgh.org. God bless you for your generosity.

Adoration Returns December 2

With the organ restoration project wrapping up, Eucharistic Adoration will resume at Saint Gregory Church on Tuesday, December 2 from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. If you can sign up as a permanent adorer or substitute on Tuesdays, email Alena at akucan@divinegracepgh.org or call 724-776-2888, ext. 1107. Thank you!

Have an Evergreen Tree to Donate?

To prepare Saint Gregory Ferdinand Saint churches for the Christmas season, we are in need of three live evergreen trees, 12-20 feet tall. If you have a tree you would like to donate, please call the Divine Grace Parish Office at 724-776-2888. Thank you!



Training for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Thinking about becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion? There will be a training on Saturday, December 6 from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm in Saint Gregory Church. Those who would like to serve as a minister and current volunteers needing a refresher are invited. Please email a courtesy RSVP to Jennifer at jlivorse@divinegracepgh.org or call 724-776-2888, ext. 1210. Thank you!

Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom

SCREENFAST

Unplug to Recharge Your Faith

ScreenFast-Called to Live in Freedom

This month as we continue to examine our use of screens and strive to make space for God and those around us, pause and ask yourself: Is this screen time helping me live my vocation, or am I just filling time?

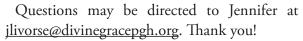
Some screen use truly serves us, such as getting work done, taking online classes, or Facetime calls with family and friends far away.

But if we frequently reach for the phone out of habit, this is an invitation to examine how we're spending our time. When we fill every quiet moment with endless scrolling, we crowd out time we could be in prayer or conversation with loved ones.

Unplug to Recharge Your Faith. Learn more at https://divinegracepgh.org/screen-fast

Corporal Work of Mercy

Our Blanket Ministry is collecting blankets, socks, hats and gloves for those in need this winter. Please leave your donations in the Bridal Room of Saint Ferdinand Church (to the left as you enter the main doors) by **Friday, November 28**.



Hospice Ministry Meeting Dec. 6

For all who might be interested in the new Hospice Volunteer Ministry at Divine Grace Parish, there will be an informational meeting on **Saturday, December 6** at 11:00 am in the Saint Gregory Blue Room. Please enter through the lower parking lot behind the church. There is no obligation if you attend. Come with your questions as we begin a new ministry through this Work of Mercy.



December 16 and 17

Embrace God's healing mercy in the sacrament of confession this Advent season. As part of the diocesan program The Light is On for You, confessions will be heard **Tuesday, December 16** at Saint Gregory and **Wednesday, December 17** at Saint Ferdinand and Holy Redeemer, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at all three churches. Visit https://divinegracepgh.org/advent for the full Advent and Christmas liturgical schedule.

Parish Registration

Is your parish registration up to date? If you have adult children who have moved out, we would appreciate you updating your information. Also, adult children are encouraged to register under their own name if they live at home and are age 22 or older.

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, religious education, and upkeep of our properties.

To date, 1,317 donors have contributed. To give, please click on https://bit.ly/4h5LNvW

How can we be a More Welcoming Parish?

Let's ponder this question as we move into the holiday season. Consider inviting a family member or neighbor who no longer practices the faith to attend Mass with you.

Unpacking the Word

- 2 Samuel 5:1-3 -

King David, the man after God's own heart (see 1 Samuel 13:14) who once slew the giant Goliath, was anointed king three different times in the Bible. On the first occasion, he was very young, and the Prophet Samuel chose him instead of any of his seven older brothers (see 1 Samuel 16:1-13). The second occasion was several years later when David was a military commander and the men of the tribe of Judah anointed him as the king of their tribe (see 2 Samuel 2:1-4). The third occasion is recounted in our reading this week when all twelve tribes of Israel gathered at Hebron to anoint him as king over all twelve tribes.

David is an immensely important figure in the biblical narrative serving as the greatest king of the United Monarchy and therefore as the measurement by which every future king would be evaluated. Much of this stems from the Lord's covenant with David, recorded in 2 Samuel 7:4-17, which promised an everlasting dynasty in which each of David's descendants sitting upon the throne would be considered a son of God. The kingdom that David built up was the Kingdom of God on earth into which Jesus would breathe new life. This kingdom also featured two important offices: the Prime Minister who was given the keys of the kingdom as a sign of his authority from the king to bind and loose (see Isaiah 22:15-25) and the Queen Mother who was an advocate with the king on behalf of the people (see 1 Kings 1:15–17).

The Temple, the destruction of which Jesus describes in this week's Gospel, was planned out and paid for in part by King David, and the Davidic liturgy focused heavily on the Todah or Thank Offering, translated into Greek as Eucharist. The Wisdom Literature of the Bible, much of which comes from David, was to be a new law for the nations that does not distinguish between Jews and Gentiles. In so many ways, King David points ahead to his most famous descendant to be authoritatively declared the King of the Jews: Jesus of Nazareth.

On this Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, the Spirit invites us to consider the many ways in which Jesus is similar to King David. We are very used to considering how he is not an earthly king like David because Jesus himself says, "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36). But while that remains true, Jesus also intentionally set up a Church with striking similarities to the previous Kingdom of God. Those similarities present us with great fodder for mediation this week.

Visit https://divinegracepgh.org/unpackingtheword to share this reflection and previous columns via email or text.



Director for Evangelization & Catechetical Ministries



Dear Jesus,
I see the kingdom You love,
the one full of the broken
and forgotten.

I see the crown You wear – thorns out of love for me.
I pick You as my King.
Mold my heart to be a worthy member of Your kingdom. Amen.



Michael Assaf

Ministry Coordinator of Youth and Young Adults

LIFETEEN divine grace parish

LIFE NIGHTS: MONDAYS

6:00-8:00 pm @ St. Ferdinand

Dec. 1 – You Are Peter

Dec. 8 – No mtg, Immaculate

Conception

BIBLE STUDY: TUESDAYS

7:00–8:00 pm @ St. Ferdinand

Nov. 25 – Son of Man Dec. 2 – Voice Crying Out

SUNDAY SESSIONS

3:00–4:30 pm @ Holy Redeemer Catholic Center

Dec. 7 and Dec. 14

Faith On Fire Pilgrimage



A group of 20 young adults from Faith on Fire, including Divine Grace parishioners, are getting ready for a Jubilee Year pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi, Italy from **December 3–12**.

Their itinerary features a walking tour of Ancient Rome, passing through the Holy Doors of the four major basilicas, and climbing the Holy Stairs. Highlights of Assisi include visiting the Basilica of Saint Clare and venerating the relics of Saint Carlo Acutis.

Please pray for our pilgrims for a safe and blessed journey.

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Divine Grace LifeTeen invites students in grades 8-12 to an

unforgettable weekend of dynamic speakers, live music, powerful worship, and a day at Cedar Point! The event runs **Thursday**, **July 9 through Sunday**, **July 12**, **2026**.

Tickets are now on sale, and early registration is just \$50 if you sign up by March 1. Don't miss this chance to fuel your purpose and find your voice! Sign up at: https://tinyurl.com/ycxesusy



Saint Gregory Catholic School 14

Divine Grace Parish



CLASSROOM WISH LIST

Saint Gregory teachers continue to create wish lists of supplies needed for their classrooms. This week's list comes from Mrs. Bodkin for her First Grade Class.





FUN WITH **FORENSICS**

Students in Grades 5th through 8th competed at Carlow University Campus Lab School Forensics Tournament this month, earning a total of 19 ribbons. Forensics Club is an opportunity for our

kids to discover the power of their voice. The next competition is in January.

First Grade Our students created their own "Flat Stanley" and sent it to a friend or family member. Our students starting to receive



them back with tales of what their "Flat Stanley" did on their trip. Some of the Stanleys traveled as far as Texas to visit.





VETERANS DAY 2025

Our students and staff braved the cold to participate in a Veterans Day prayer ceremony led by Father Jim over our Field of Flags. Following the blessing, students witnessed a flag raising ceremony by the local VFW.

Our 4th – 8th Grade students took part in an assembly to learn about the 13 folds of the American Flag, and had a Q & A session with our visiting veterans.

Along with the Field of Flags, our PTG created a Wall of Honor with submitted names of veterans. The PTG also encouraged them to pray for our service members.

Thank you to all veterans for your service and sacrifice.



Sanctuary Candle

A candle burns at Saint Ferdinand

For Wayne and Helen Richards from Family



Sanctuary Flowers

Holy Redeemer

Altar Flowers:

In Memory of John & Delia Leopardo and Kevin Stewart from Elvy Kirkham

Tabernacle Flowers:

In Memory of Anthony & Elizabeth
Pratt and Toni Ann McDevitt
from Mimi Spade

Saint Gregory

Altar and Tabernacle Flowers: *In Memory of Jim Martin* from Family & Friends



Prayer Garden

Saint Ferdinand
A candle burns for:

Carol Sinicki from Frank & Beth Czura

Judie Marie from Cindy

John Beadle from Helen Nazar

Julia Eckman from Richard Family



The Catholic Church honors Mary with major celebrations like the Assumption (August 15) and the Immaculate Conception (December 8), along with other important observances like the Annunciation (March 25) and Mary, Mother of God (January 1). This past week we marked the feast day of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (November 21), and soon will celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12).

3 January 80

Jan 1: Mary, Mother of God Jan 8: Our Lady of Prompt Succor Jan 15: Our Lady of Banneux (Our Lady of the Poor)

∞ February ∞

Feb 2: Purification of the Virgin Feb 11: Our Lady of Lourdes

March 80

Mar 25: Annunciation by Archangel Gabriel

∞ April ⊗

Apr 26: Our Lady of Good Counsel

∞ May ∞

May 1: Queen of Heaven May 13: Our Lady of Fatima May 24: Mary Help of Christians May 31: Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

∞ Movable Feasts ∞

1 Day After Ascension of Jesus: Our Lady of the Apostles

> 1 Day After Pentecost: Our Lady of Holy Church

9 Days After Corpus Christi: Immaculate Heart of Mary

∞ June ∞

Jun 27: Our Lady of Perpetual Help

cs July so

Jul 16: Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Aug 2: Our Lady of the Angels
Aug 5: Dedication of the Basilica of
Saint Mary Major
Aug 15: Assumption into Heaven
Aug 21: Our Lady of Knock
Aug 22: Queenship of Mary
Aug 22: Black Madonna of
Czestochowa

September ⊗

Sep 8: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sep 12: The Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sep 15: Our Lady of Sorrows
Sep 19: Our Lady of La Salette
Sep 24: Our Lady of Walsingham, Feast of Our Lady of Ransom

∞ October ∞

Oct 7: Most Holy Rosary

∞ November ∞

Nov 16: Our Lady of Mercy Nov 21: Presentation of Mary

Dec 8: Immaculate Conception Dec 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe

Be a Light for all to see. - Matthew 5:16



Ring the Bell to Make a Difference

The Salvation Army in Ellwood City is looking for bell ringers for their holiday Kettle Drive outside Giant Eagle and Shop 'n Save to help our neighbors in need. Most of the money raised -85 percent - stays in the community to assist families groceries, utility with other assistance and expenses. Organizations and groups can sign up at https://tinyurl.com/ysskcdvu



or email Doug at dugslade@gmail.com.

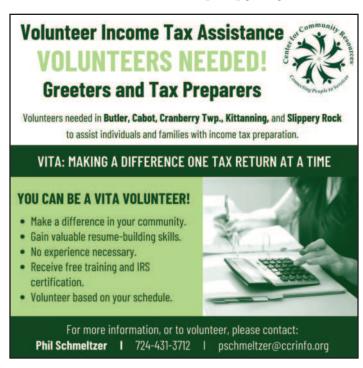
Support the Pittsburgh Crèche

For many years, the Pittsburgh Crèche in downtown Pittsburgh has stood as a visible sign of our faith, proclaiming the birth of our Lord. But expenses continue to be a challenge - it costs nearly \$90,000 a year to maintain and store the Crèche. You can help by buying a Pittsburgh Crèche Fundraising Lottery Ticket, valid from **January 1 to June 30, 2026**. Each ticket costs \$25 and is based on the PA Daily Evening Lottery Drawing (3-digit). To learn more, email crechefundraising@diopitt.org or visit www.diopitt.org/news.



Help Families Facing Food Insecurity

With the loss of SNAP benefits, Mary's Place of Pittsburgh is asking for donations of grocery store gift cards. Mary's Place provides safe housing and support for pregnant women and mothers of newborns, and leaders say many moms are struggling to put food on the table. Gift cards to stores such as Giant Eagle, Aldi, Walmart and Target are needed. They can be mailed to Mary's Place, 2905 Castlegate Ave., Pittsburgh 15226, or sent electronically to director@marysplacepgh.org. Thank you!





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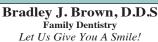
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