

Divine Grace Parish

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025



Twelve tips on preparing for Our Lord. See page 5.

Saint Ferdinand Church

2535 Rochester Road
Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

@divinegracepgh



www.divinegracepgh.org



724-776-2888



Holy Redeemer Church

415 4th Street
Ellwood City, PA 16117

parishoffice@divinegracepgh.org

Saint Gregory Church

2 West Beaver Street
Zelienople, PA 16063

2 Parish Leadership

Divine Grace Parish

Our Clergy

Father James A. Wehner

Pastor

jwehner@diopitt.org

Father John P. Gallagher

Senior Priest

jpgallagher@diopitt.org

Father Joseph M. Freedy

Senior Parochial Vicar

jfreedy@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. Pinter

epinter@diopitt.org

PRESIDER SCHEDULE

For next week's schedule,
follow us on Instagram –
[@divinegracepgh](https://www.instagram.com/divinegracepgh) – or visit
<https://bit.ly/3QnKf5w>

VICTIM ASSISTANCE HOTLINE

Divine Grace Parish is
committed to ensuring a safe
environment from any form
of abuse for everyone.

If you suspect any form of
abuse, please call the diocesan
Victim Assistance Hotline at
1-888-808-1235.

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 Greci

Coordinator of Finance

724-776-2888, ext. 1109

jgreci@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: *Images by Christa
Rogers Photography.*

 [@divinegracepgh](https://www.instagram.com/divinegracepgh)

Pastoral Staff

Jennifer Livorse

Facilitator of Parish Ministries

724-776-2888, ext. 1210

jlivorse@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

jgawaldo@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

 [@DivineGraceParishDioPitt](https://www.facebook.com/DivineGraceParishDioPitt)



Repent, for the *Kingdom* of *heaven* is at hand!

– Matthew 3:1

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

On **Monday, December 8**, the Universal Church celebrates the Immaculate Conception of Mary. This is a holy day of obligation. Mass schedule: Saint Ferdinand (8:30, Noon, 7:00 pm); Saint Gregory (8:00 am, 9:15 am, 7:00 pm); and Holy Redeemer (9:00 am and 7:00 pm).

What is the Immaculate Conception?

The popular idea that this refers to Jesus' conception is incorrect. Since the early Church, Christians proclaimed this mystery that Mary was conceived without sin. To correct many disbeliefs including Protestant heresy, Pope Pius IX defined this event as a dogma in 1847. Some thought Catholics were exaggerating the role of Mary. However, this Feast is all about Jesus. God prepared Mary as "full of grace" to be the spotless tabernacle and holy temple for the Divine Presence to carry Jesus in her womb without any sin in her being. This Feast also points to us, since the Baptized are prepared to receive Holy Communion and carry the Lord in our bodies having received the Eucharist without sin. While Mary was conceived without sin, she still had the freedom, like Adam and Eve, to choose faithfulness or pride. Adam and Eve chose pride.

Saint Juan Diego

This **Tuesday, December 9**, the Church remembers Saint Juan Diego, a poor Mexican farmer who was baptized at the age of 50 and loved the Eucharist and Mass. In 1531, Mary appeared to him as an Aztec princess announcing that she was the Mother of God and that a church was to be built on that site. She gave him flowers (ones that did not grow in that area) to take to the local bishop. When Juan met with the bishop, he opened his cloak which the flowers were gathered, the imprint of Mary was on his cloak. The church eventually was built, named for Our Lady of Guadalupe, and most of Mexico converted to Catholicism.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

This **Friday, December 12**, is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. All of North, South and Central America has been dedicated to Mary under her title Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas. Her appearance to Juan Diego was to support the evangelizing mission of the Church to bring all peoples to Jesus Christ.

Parish Advent Mission

I wanted to highlight this opportunity on Tuesday and Wednesday at Holy Redeemer Church as we prepare for Christmas. There is no cost. Please see page 5 for details.

Adoration Has Resumed at St. Gregory

Every Tuesday at Saint Gregory Church the Blessed Sacrament is exposed on the main altar from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex to assure that there is someone always in the church during those times. Confessions also take place from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Benediction occurs at 6:00 pm.

Holiday Giving

As you budget for holiday gatherings, receptions, gifts, and other commitments, thank you for your prayerful discernment of a special year-end gift to Divine Grace Parish. I appreciate the generosity of so many, including financial, spiritual, and volunteer support.

DIVINE GRACE PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT



Sunday Collection total for
November 22-23, 2025 = \$49,487
Second Collection = \$8,255
(for the Retirement Fund for Religious)
Online Giving (Oct. 2025) = \$65,592
Parish Members = 18,837
Parish Households = 7,100

This weekend's second collection is for Parish Appeal. *Thank you for your generosity.*

I ask that...prayers, petitions, and
thanksgivings be offered for *everyone*

— 1 Timothy 2:1



Saturday, December 6 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

4:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Barbara Neidhardt (Terri Bernath)
5:00 pm, Holy Redeemer † Lizbeth Brandenburg (Dorothy Colella)
5:00 pm, Saint Gregory † Jim Andrews (Carol & Piny Wallace)
6:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Ryan Kingerski (Tony & Sharon Buzzelli)

Sunday, December 7 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

8:00 am, Saint Ferdinand † Richard J. Quinn (Linda Pecyna)
8:00 am, Saint Gregory † Russell Pelligrone (David Hulick)
9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † LuAnn Santillo (Larry & Jonette Capra)
10:00 am, Saint Ferdinand † Marty Chabala (Beggy Family)
10:00 am, Saint Gregory † Mary Jane Schaffer (Therese Yates & Family)
11:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Samuel R. Bertucci (Virginia Ottaviani)
12:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Leonard (Chick) Angeletti (Jayne & Jay Manga)
5:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Barbara Procup (Joe & Marianne Marino)

Monday, December 8 – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 am, Saint Gregory † Dale Benedum (Rosemary Huber)
8:30 am, Saint Ferdinand † Richard Hadley (Follett Family)
9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Rita MacMurdo & George MacMurdo (Barb Houk, daughter & sister)
12:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Nadine (Divine Grace Parish Choir)
7:00 pm, Holy Redeemer † D.J. Schaffer (Susana & David Schaffer, parents)
7:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Kip Feroce (Boccardi/Scanner Families)
7:00 pm, Saint Gregory † Josephine Bonomo (David & Martha Florie)

Tuesday, December 9

8:00 am, Saint Gregory † Mary Ann Burgess (David Hulick)
8:30 am, Saint Ferdinand † Frank McKevitt (Joe & Rocky Renaud)
9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Edna Mae (West) Brown (Linda Baldinger)

Wednesday, December 10

8:00 am, Saint Gregory † Betty Chvala (Mary Ann Thompson)
8:30 am, Saint Ferdinand † Marlene Kremer (Husband, Paul)

9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † S. Dale Benedum (Tony & Jo Rocco)
7:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Jack Slusser (Slusser Family)

Thursday, December 11

8:00 am, Saint Gregory † Louise Thompson (Family)
8:30 am, Saint Ferdinand † Richard Bachmann (Steve & Carolyn Miller)
9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Joanne DeLuca (Elena & Bob Punzell)

Friday, December 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:30 am, Saint Ferdinand † Edward Bunni (Luma, Nadeem, Rawah & Ryan)
9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Helen Colosimo (Frank & Barbara Gioffe)
9:00 am, Saint Gregory † Don DeSantis (Faculty & Staff of Saint Gregory School)

Saturday, December 13 – Saint Lucy

9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † John E. Schilling (Nick & Kathy Nardone)
4:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Robert Connolly (Robert & Carmen Stoffa)
5:00 pm, Holy Redeemer † Norberta Modlisewski (Dave Krupa)
5:00 pm, Saint Gregory † In Memory of St. Gregory K of C Members (St. Gregory K of C)
6:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Dan, Florence & Ray (Family)

Sunday, December 14 – 3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

8:00 am, Saint Ferdinand † Barbie Klenk (Steve & Patty Rohm)
8:00 am, Saint Gregory † Eleanor Soltesz (Don & Karen Koger)
9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Michelangelo Nocera (Frank & Louisa Carrozza)
10:00 am, Saint Ferdinand † Fred Bonvenuto & Boschetto Family (Elsie, David, Barb & Families)
10:00 am, Saint Gregory † Richard Hankins (Kathy & Bill Drambel)
11:00 am, Holy Redeemer For Parishioners of Divine Grace Parish
12:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Elena Granofsky (Chir Family)
5:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Michael Galata (Mom & Dad)

† = deceased



Make it a great Advent!

Are you off to a good start in preparing for the birth of Jesus, or was the first week of Advent a challenge with so much to do?

Prioritizing how to best use your time is key to making this a meaningful Advent. **Ask God to help you** draw near Him. **If you need to schedule prayer time** and spiritual activities, do it.

Begin to practice silence. Find a quiet place for prayer and reflection—no smartphones or other screens. **Establish a daily routine**, setting aside time for prayer and scripture meditation. Six more suggestions:

- **Go to confession.** We are called to repentance during Advent. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is meant to cleanse your soul, which will help you prepare for Christ's birth.
- **Attend weekday Mass.** Consider going to daily Mass to stay spiritually connected.
- **Families: Pray using your Advent wreath.** Light the candles these final three Sundays of Advent, reflecting on the themes of peace, joy, and love. See page 6.
- **Set up a nativity scene if you haven't already.** If you have young children, ask them to look for ways to perform an act of kindness. For each kindness they can add a piece of straw or yarn to the manger to prepare it for Jesus.
- **Make a Jesse Tree from your Christmas tree**, adding ornaments that represent figures and stories from the Bible, beginning with the Creation through the birth of our Lord.
- **Give to those in need.** Many worthy ministries and organizations need your help.

ADVENT PARISH MISSION WITH FR. ANTHONY FEDERICO

Join us at Holy Redeemer Church to prepare our hearts for Christmas with three inspiring talks from Fr. Anthony Federico.

Tuesday, December 9, 7:00 pm talk
"From ESPN to Priesthood: How the Eucharist Changed my Life"

Wednesday, December 10, 9:00 am Fr. Anthony celebrates Mass, followed by his talk *"Under the Gaze of Jesus: The Difficulty & Beauty of Eucharistic Adoration"*

Wednesday, December 10, 7:00 pm talk *"Desire: Coming to Know the Heart of the Father"*

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

MASS 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



By making time and focusing on the true meaning of Christmas, we will be better prepared when He comes.

Advent Wreath Prayer

Second Week of Advent
December 7 – Theme: Peace



1. **Light the first and second purple candles**
2. **Read from Scripture:** *“And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”* (Luke 2:4-7) (Isaiah 9:2)
3. **Pray the Advent Wreath Prayer for Week 2:** *“Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the best version of ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Amen.”*
4. **Reflect:** What are your top three priorities as you prepare for Christmas?
(Source: Dynamic Catholic)

Leave a Lasting Legacy

Have you thought about your legacy at Divine Grace Parish? The new Catholic Foundation for Greater Pittsburgh has created the Divine Grace Parish Fund for donors to provide a permanent source of support after their passing.

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.

Two education sessions are scheduled to provide details. On **Thursday, December 11** at 9:00 am, all are welcome to enjoy 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.

The Endowment's FreeWill website is now live. Visit <http://partner.freewill.com/cfgpitt>, or scan this QR code if you are interested in creating a will, making a legacy gift, or to indicate you have already included Divine Grace Parish in your estate plans. Thank you!



EUCCHARISTIC Adoration

—MONDAY—

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

—TUESDAY—

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

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



CONFESSION *Schedule*

—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

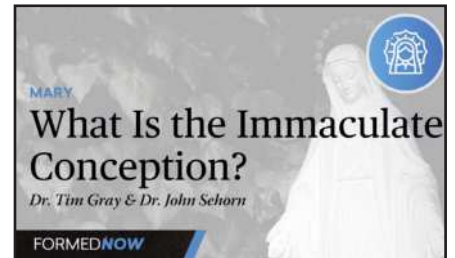
Saint Ferdinand Church
10:00 am to 11:00 am

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

This week on **formed**TM Week of December 7, 2025

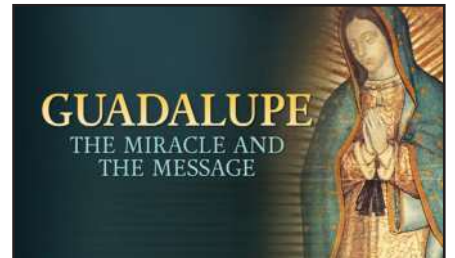
What is the Immaculate Conception?

Join Drs. Tim Gray and John Sehorn as they examine Mary under her title of the Immaculate Conception. This dogma of the Catholic faith, promulgated in 1854 by Pope Pius IX, speaks of Mary's conception and what it means to the Church.



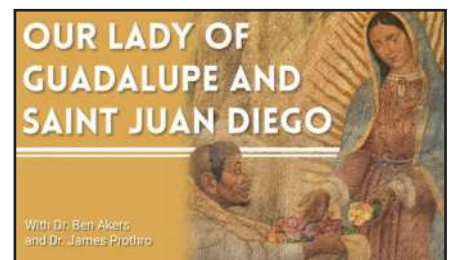
Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message

Enjoy this film narrated by Jim Caviezel that walks us through our Mother's miraculous appearance to Juan Diego, an encounter that influenced the conversion of millions of people.



Our Lady of Guadalupe and Saint Juan Diego

Dr. Ben Akers sits down with Dr. James Prothro to discuss Mary's apparition to St. Juan Diego on Tepeyac hill under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



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@divinegracephgh.org. Thank you!





Giving Tree Donations Due

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul asks that gift cards for the less fortunate be placed in boxes under the trees in the Saint Ferdinand narthex by **Sunday, December 7**.

Parishioners are again donating \$25 gift cards for those in need, including Gleaners Food Bank recipients, special needs residents of McGuire Memorial, and those living at UPMC Cranberry Place.

Be sure to attach the tag from the tree. Merry Christmas!



Saint Ferdinand Office Hours

Monday - Friday

9:00 am to 5:00 pm

724-776-2888, ext. 1101

Fax: 724-776-2378



This week at Saint Ferdinand Church

Monday, December 8

- 9:15 am Flame of Love, *Church Cry Room*
- 7:00 pm K of C Living Rosary, *Church*
- 7:00 pm Ultreya, *Upper Room*

Tuesday, December 9

- 9:00 am Flame of Love, *Children's Liturgy Room*
- 9:30 am Contemplative Prayer, *Holy Family Rm*
- 9:30 am Middle Moms, *Church Bridal Room*
- 10:00 am Bible Study, *Upper Room*
- 7:00 pm Folk Choir, *Church*

Wednesday, December 10

- 9:00 am Comfort Blankets, *McAndrew-Biller Hall*
- 7:00 pm K of C Council 11838, *McAndrew-Biller Hall*
- 7:00 pm Bereavement Group, *Holy Family Room*

Thursday, December 11

- 10:00 am God's Precious Preemies, *Library*

Sunday, December 14

- 1:30 pm Oldenski Hall Renovation, *Oldenski Hall*

Knights of Columbus

Soup & Sale

following Masses on December 13 & 14

Preparing for Our Lord

Help make Saint Ferdinand Church beautiful for the Christmas season. Volunteers are needed to bring in and set up evergreen trees in the sanctuary on **Friday, December 12** at 6:00 pm. Help is also requested for the "hanging of the greens" on **Sunday, December 14** immediately following the noon Mass. Safe environment clearances are required. If you have any questions, please contact Sherry at 724-622-4179.

Oldenski Hall Renovation Meeting

The former Saint Ferdinand Parish raised \$2.7 million for the renovation of Oldenski Hall. A steering committee has been meeting to discuss the scope of the project. The committee is ready to share its recommendations in a town hall meeting on **Sunday, December 14**, at 1:30 pm in Oldenski Hall. Join us to hear the report, offer input, and ask questions.

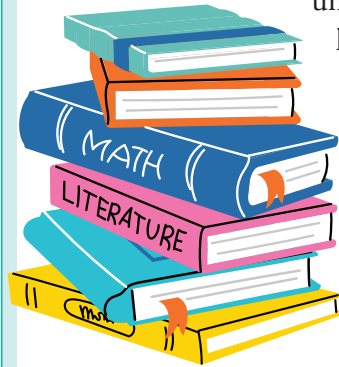
O Come Let Us Adore Him

The Magi traveled a great distance to adore Our Lord in the manger. Thankfully, we have wonderful opportunities to do that on a regular basis. Would you consider scheduling a one-hour weekly appointment with Jesus? Saint Gregory and Saint Ferdinand churches are looking for adorers—Tuesdays at Saint Gregory between 1:00 and 6:00 pm; Wednesdays at Saint Ferdinand at 11:00 am or 2:00 pm. Please email Pam at bakersforlife@gmail.com for Saint Ferdinand, and Jennifer for Saint Gregory: jlivorse@divinegracepgh.org or sign up in the narthex.



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



Helping the Homework Helpers

A program called Homework Helpers is getting underway in Ellwood City to support students living in the Walnut Ridge housing development. A new ministry of Divine Grace Parish, Homework Helpers is seeking volunteers to help provide academic support and/or snacks one evening a week. If you feel called make a difference, please contact Stacey or Cara at HH@divinegracepgh.org to learn how you can get involved.

The Light is On for You

Experience God's healing and mercy in the sacrament of confession. 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. For the complete Advent and Christmas liturgical schedule, see p. 16.

Shining Star Tree Gift Deadline

Want to help others in need this Christmas? Gifts are due **Sunday, December 7** for the Shining Star Tree in the narthex of Holy Redeemer Church. Please take a Star tag from the tree and return it with the requested gift, wrapped, attaching the tag to the outside of the gift. Drop off in the narthex or the Social Services office in the Catholic Center. Thank you!



Community Dinner Assistance

Parishioners and friends in the Ellwood City area look forward to the Community Dinner on Sundays in the Holy Redeemer Catholic Center. Teams of volunteers prepare and serve home-cooked meals with a welcoming smile. More help is always appreciated. If you would like to help volunteer or donate food items, visit: <https://divinegracepgh.org/ec-community-dinners>.

Also, find our wish list of needed supplies at <https://tinyurl.com/9227z8hy>. God bless you.



This week at Holy Redeemer Church

Tuesday, December 9

7:00 pm Advent Parish Mission talk, *Church*

Wednesday, December 10

9:30 am Advent Parish Mission talk, *Church*

7:00 pm Advent Parish Mission talk, *Church*

7:30 pm Ultreya, *Convent Chapel*

Thursday, December 11

6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal, *Church*

Friday, December 12

5:00 pm Bingo, *Catholic Center*

Sunday, December 14

3:00 pm Youth Ministry, *Location TBD*

4:00 pm Community Dinner, *Catholic Center
Lunch Room*

Win a New Car

Car raffle tickets are available in the narthex of our churches following Masses. The parish is raffling off a new Chevy Trax LT. Tickets are \$25 each or 5 for \$100. Can you help sell tickets? Click here: <https://bit.ly/3UUqJjR> or scan the QR code to sign up and see the raffle rules. Someone will win—why not you?





This week at Saint Gregory Church

Thursday, December 11

6:30 pm Pastoral Council, *School Library*
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal, *Church*

Saturday, December 13

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

Stay Connected

Check the parish website and bulletin regularly for upcoming events, service opportunities, and ways to grow in faith. There's always something happening at Divine Grace Parish!



Saint Gregory Office Hours

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

Reflect on God's Divine Mercy

Join us in a new Divine Mercy Cenacle faith sharing group beginning **Thursday, January 29**. We will explore the profound insights of Saint Faustina's diary, delve into scripture, and reflect on the Catechism. Meetings will be held three Thursday evenings a month from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the Saint Gregory School Library.

To learn more, contact Judy Abbs at 412-585-1308 or divinemercypray@divinegracepgh.org.

Good Food for a Good Cause

Hoagie sales begin this weekend following Masses for Divine Grace Parish's Appalachia Mission Trip next June. If you are a parishioner age 14 or older and would like to help those in need, please sign up to make and sell hoagies after Masses. Funds raised will be used to buy building materials. Hoagie sales will continue monthly through February. Email Mindy at appalachia@divinegracepgh.org.

Last Chance for Christmas Angels

Angel Tree gifts for those in need are due **Tuesday, December 9**. If you haven't yet taken a gift tag from the tree, please do so and sign the sheet. Return your wrapped gift next to the tree with the tag attached to the outside of it. If you have questions, email SGAngelTree@divinegracepgh.org. God bless you for your generosity.

Lighting the Way for the Lord

Luminary kits are on sale next two weekends at Saint Gregory Church, **December 13-14** and **December 20-21**. The Knights of Columbus Council 6177 will sell the kits after Masses for \$10, which include enough candles, sand and bags to make 10 luminaries. Special orders, delivery requests or orders, please call 814-397-5858.

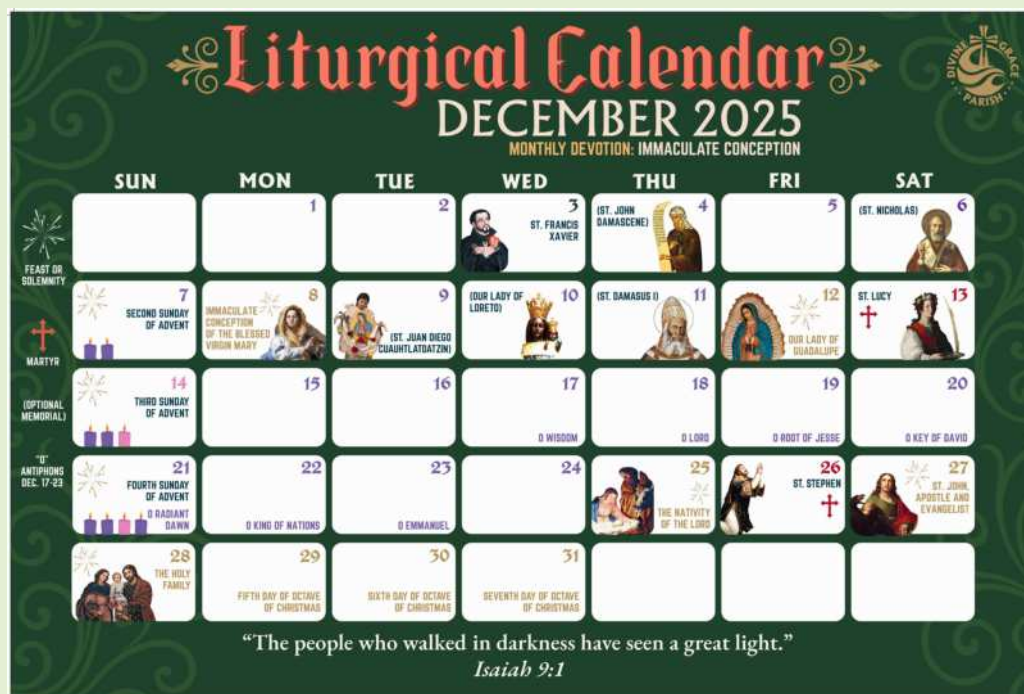


Pittsburgh Mass Mob Heads South

The fifth and final pious pilgrimage of the year by the Pittsburgh Mass Mob is set for **Sunday, December 21**. The group is heading to Immaculate Conception Church of Saint James Parish in Washington County. Participants will leave Saint Gregory at 9:15 am to arrive for 10:30 am Mass. Questions? Contact organizer Paul Foster at 724-612-1097.

Welcome to Our Parish

This Advent, let us reflect on how we can be a more welcoming parish perhaps by inviting a family member or neighbor who has been away from the faith to join you at Mass.



Monthly Liturgical Calendar

With the new liturgical year underway, it's a great time to check out the monthly Liturgical Calendar in our church narthexes. It features feast days, images of saints, and a scripture verse in a 3 ft. by 2 ft. format.

Stay current with upcoming holy days and holidays, the O Antiphons, and learn more about Church history.

-SAVE THE DATE- Welcoming the Stranger

How can Divine Grace Parish respond to the Gospel call to welcome the stranger in ways that are rooted in Catholic Social Teaching? Join us for a rescheduled presentation on how our faith teaches us to respond to the realities of migration with compassion. The talk will take place on **Thursday, January 22**, at 7:00 pm in Saint Ferdinand's McAndrew-Biller Hall.

RSVP at <https://divinegraceph.org/talks>.

Making Beautiful Music

Plans are underway for a Dedication Concert for the refurbished organ at Saint Gregory Church. The performance is set for **Friday, January 30** at 7:00 pm. Fundraising continues for the project, which cost \$585,000. To date, gifts total about \$375,000. You may make a pledge with reoccurring donations or a one-time gift.

Email Fr. Jim at jwehner@divinegraceph.org.

Pray with us on Hallow this Advent

It's not too late to join in as we journey through Hallow's Pray25 Challenge, preparing our hearts for Christmas through daily prayer and reflection. You can

find it on our parish page under the Community tab. Already using Hallow? Simply open the app, tap the Community tab at the bottom of your screen, visit our parish page, and join the Advent prayer challenge. New to Hallow? Visit <https://hallow.com/parish>, search for Divine Grace Parish via zip code 16066, and follow the prompts. Or visit <https://divinegraceph.org/hallow>

CONGRATULATIONS

OLSH student earns High Honors

Congratulations to parishioner **Olivia Campagna** of Baden. She has been recognized by her high school, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, for being named to the Honor Roll for the first quarter of the year. Olivia was presented with High Honors.

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, 1,338 donors have contributed. To give, click on <https://bit.ly/4h5LNvW>

Unpacking the Word

— Isaiah 11:1-10 —

Isaiah's famous Stump of Jesse oracle is his longest and most detailed prophecy of the coming messianic royal child. By the time Isaiah wrote these words, the grand tree of the house of David was beginning to look like Charlie Brown's Christmas tree. Soon it would resemble a smoldering stump more than a dynasty that would last forever. In 587 BC, the Babylonian Empire sacked Jerusalem, destroyed the Temple, and took the upper levels of society into exile. It seemed that God's great promise that one of David's descendants would always sit on David's throne was just wishful reminiscing of a bygone day. But Isaiah prophesied that a shoot would sprout from the stump of David's father Jesse.

This prophecy includes two great promises: a new king and a new creation. This new king from the line of Jesse's son David will be anointed by the Spirit of the Lord, just as David himself once was (see 1 Samuel 16:13). He will be invested with the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts are at the heart of the Rite of Confirmation during the Laying on of Hands which makes the newly confirmed a little christ. The same thing happened at your Confirmation. This coming Messianic King will not judge by appearances, just as the Lord did not judge the young David by his appearance (see 1 Samuel 16:7), and his will be a reign of justice and peace.

The second promise of a new creation takes the form of Eden-like imagery of peaceful coexistence between natural enemies. These pairs of animals represent a reversal of the effects of sin on the natural order and among the nations who war with one another. Who rules over this blissful New Eden? None other than the "little child," the "shoot of Jesse" himself. In this new creation, the People of God will include not only the Jewish people but also the Gentiles.

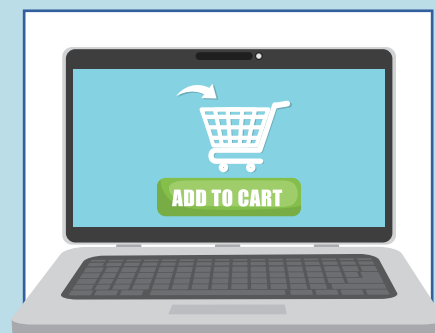
With Jesus' advent in Bethlehem, the shoot finally sprouted from the stump of Jesse. As an immortal King who can no longer die, Jesus is the ideal fulfillment of God's promise that David's descendants would always sit on the throne. Those of us who follow him also experience the Spirit's anointing and gifts. But Jesus' work is not yet done. God's people longed for the shoot to sprout in the days of Isaiah, and we look forward to his return to inaugurate the Messianic Era of peace and justice. The Lord kept his promises of a king and a shoot, and he will also keep his promise of a glorious return and re-creation.

Visit <https://divinegracepgh.org/unpackingtheword> to share this reflection and previous columns.



Jason Gawaldo

*Director for Evangelization
& Catechetical Ministries*



Parish Online Store helps out Santa

Still looking for Christmas gifts? Divine Grace Parish's online store is fulfilling orders at <https://bit.ly/DGPMerch>. Shop for parish logo shirts, hoodies, hats, jackets, mugs, bottles and more until **Tuesday, December 23.**

Purchases will be shipped to your home. Email Jennifer at jlivorse@divinegracepgh.org with any questions at jlivorse@divinegracepgh.org.



Michael Assaf

*Ministry Coordinator of
Youth and Young Adults*

LIFETEEN
divine grace parish

LIFE NIGHTS: MONDAYS

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
@ St. Ferdinand

Dec. 15 – Christmas Party



SUNDAY SESSIONS

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm
@ Holy Redeemer
Location TBD

**December 7 &
December 14**

STEUBENVILLE CONFERENCE OPENINGS STILL AVAILABLE - REGISTER NOW!

Students in grades 8-12 are invited to an unforgettable summer weekend at the Steubenville Conference, **July 9–12, 2026**. Teens will encounter dynamic speakers, live music, powerful worship, and a full day of excitement at Cedar Point. More than just a trip, this conference is a chance to grow in faith, discover your purpose, and connect with others on the journey.

Early registration is open, sign up by March 1 to secure the \$50 early bird rate. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/ycxesusy>.



PRAYERS FOR OUR PILGRIMS

From **December 3-12**, twenty young adults from Faith on Fire, including parishioners of Divine Grace, are taking part in a Jubilee pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi, Italy. Highlights include a walking tour of Ancient Rome, passing through the Holy Doors of the four major basilicas and climbing the Holy Stairs. In Assisi, they are seeing the Basilica of Saint Clare and relics of Saint Carlo Acutis.

Please keep them in your prayers for a safe and blessed pilgrimage.

Save the Date – Faith On Fire

Christmas Party

Thursday, December 18 • 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Faith on Fire invites all young adults to join us for a festive Christmas celebration at Dave & Buster's, 6260 Northway Drive, Ross Twp. The evening will feature a buffet dinner, unlimited soft drinks, and plenty of holiday surprises. Enjoy good food and the joy of the season together. All are welcome!



PROJECT LINUS—THE ULTIMATE SECURITY BLANKET

Girl Scout Troop 26447 made and donated blankets for Project Linus to give a sense of security to seriously ill children or others in need. They learned how to craft these no-sew blankets, a sweet gesture of comfort.



GET WELL SOON

Students made Get Well cards for a beloved parishioner who is having a difficult time. The cards shared warm thoughts, feelings and prayers to help encourage the family.

CLASSROOM WISH LIST

We appreciate all who have been donating needed classroom supplies. This week's list was compiled by 6th Grade teacher Mrs. Kelly.



Mrs. Kelly's Wish List

BREAKFAST

With Santa
Sunday, Dec. 14

8:30 am to 11:00 am



Join us for a festive morning at St. Gregory Catholic School! Children are invited to share their holiday wishes with Santa while families enjoy a delicious breakfast and the joyful spirit of the season.

St. Gregory School Cafeteria
115 Pine Street, Zelienople, PA 16063

Enjoy pancakes, sausage, eggs, and more!
Adults: \$8 | Seniors: \$7 | Children (10 & under): \$6

We hope to see you there!



WARMING UP WITH THE COLD TURKEY SHOOTOUT

We hosted our annual Cold Turkey Shootout basketball tournament over two weekends, welcoming 25 teams. Players on JV and Varsity competed well and had lots of fun. Thanks to all who helped make the tournament a success!



Sanctuary Candle

A candle burns at
Saint Ferdinand

For Edward Bunni
from Luma, Nadeem,
Rawah & Ryan



Sanctuary Flowers

Holy Redeemer

Altar Flowers: **In Memory of**
Walter & Jean Biega
from Family



Prayer Garden

Saint Ferdinand
A candle burns for:

Arlene Hughes
from Mary & Tom Mion

Thomas Richard, Sr.
from Richard Family

Kerron & Jalisha Bunsee
Wedding Anniversary

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.

Please keep them in your PRAYERS



Weddings

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond
Thellman
Mr. & Mrs. Alexander
Verona



New Members

Edward & Evelyn Bayles
William & Paula Flynn
Ian & Karen Fremer
Steven & Michelle George
Garrett & Amy Greathouse
Justin Hand
Stephen & Machel Hill
Robert Kamenski
Ryan Kuntz
Joseph & Mary Jo Mazur
Josephine McCready
Ree Mitra
Christy Moore
William & Natalie Novak
Jared Palladino
Lisa A. Rich
Robert & Nicole Skamai
Francis & Dorette Welk
Roberto & Natalie Whitley



Baptisms

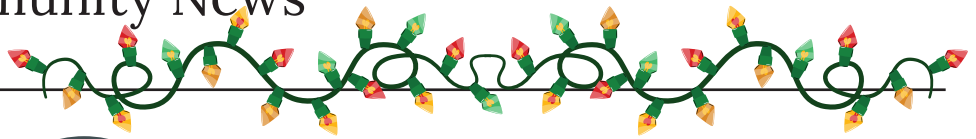
Addison Victoria
Amilia Anne
Brooks Cameron
Charles Vincent
Charlotte Alice
Cora Jane
Esme Elaine
Everett Samuel
Gianna Kay
Maverick James
Parker Michael
Raphael Siotame
Riley Jane
Theo Christian



Deceased

Elizabeth Jean Biondi
Mary Jane Folino
Colleen Lynn Friconi
John Gerrich, Sr
Janice Markley
Georgian Mudric
Robert Plavecsky
Virginia Purnell
Anthony Recce
Rose Sulia
James Vojtask





Our lady of Guadalupe Mass



All are welcome to celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe on her feast day, **Friday, December 12**, at Saint Paul Cathedral, 108 N. Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh 15213. The event includes:

- Eucharistic adoration at 5:30 pm; Rosary 6:00 pm; Mass 7:00 pm.
- Mariachi musicians play for the procession as the faithful carry flags of the Americas and sing hymns in several languages.
- Led by the bishop, participants present flowers to Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- The rosary and homily are bilingual.

Marriage Preparation Retreat

Getting married in the Church next year? Sign up for the Butler Area Marriage Preparation Retreat, to be held on two **Saturdays, March 7 and March 14**, at Saint Michael the Archangel Church, All Saints Parish, 432 Center Avenue, Butler, PA 16001. The cost is \$50 per couple. To register, email cweiland@zoominternet.net or call 724-991-2639. For questions, contact Deacon Mike at mkaufman@allsaintsbutler.org or call 724-679-3470.

Make a Positive Impact

McGuire Memorial has several full and part-time job opportunities. A faith-based ministry that serves children and adults with physical and intellectual disabilities, McGuire Memorial is seeking candidates with strong mission-driven values who want to make a difference. Requirements include a high school diploma or GED and the ability to work some weekends. Must be able to pass multiple clearances and drug screening.

Visit www.mcguirehires.org for details.

DIVINE GRACE PARISH 2025 Advent & Christmas Liturgies/Events

FROM THE PASTOR

The Advent and Christmas seasons offer a wonderful opportunity to recommit to the Catholic faith and share it with others. Whether you are a regular at weekend Mass or have lost touch with the Church, you are welcome here at *Divine Grace Parish*. See you soon, and bring a friend!

Fr. Jim Wehner
Pastor

Advent Parish Mission DECEMBER 9 & 10

Holy Redeemer Church

SPEAKER: Fr. Anthony Federico
Former ESPN sportswriter turned priest

Tuesday • 7 pm Talk
Wednesday • 9 am Mass + Talk
• 7 pm Talk

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary MONDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

St. Gregory Church
8 am | 9:15 am | 7 pm
St. Ferdinand Church
8:30 am | Noon | 7 pm
Holy Redeemer Church
9 am | 7 pm

Holy Mother of God WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

St. Gregory Church
4 pm
St. Ferdinand Church
7 pm | Midnight
Holy Redeemer Church
7 pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1ST

St. Gregory Church
8 am | 10 am
St. Ferdinand Church
8:30 am | Noon
Holy Redeemer Church
9 am

Christmas Eve Masses WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

St. Ferdinand Church
4 pm Church
4 pm Oldenski Hall
6 pm | Midnight
St. Gregory Church
5 pm | 8 pm
Holy Redeemer Church
5 pm | 10 pm

Christmas Day Masses THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

St. Gregory Church
8 am | 10 am
St. Ferdinand Church
9 am | 11 am
Holy Redeemer Church
10 am

Confession Schedule

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU (DIOCESAN-WIDE CONFESSIONS)

St. Gregory Church
Tue. Dec. 16 • 5-7 pm
St. Ferdinand Church
Holy Redeemer Church
Wed. Dec. 17 • 5-7 pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

Holy Redeemer Church
9:30 - 10:30 am
St. Gregory Church
St. Ferdinand Church
10 - 11 am

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

St. Ferdinand Church
Noon - 1 pm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23RD

St. Gregory Church
5 - 6 pm
Holy Redeemer Church
6 - 7 pm

**NO CONFESSIONS ON
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27**

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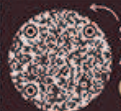


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