

# Divine Grace Parish

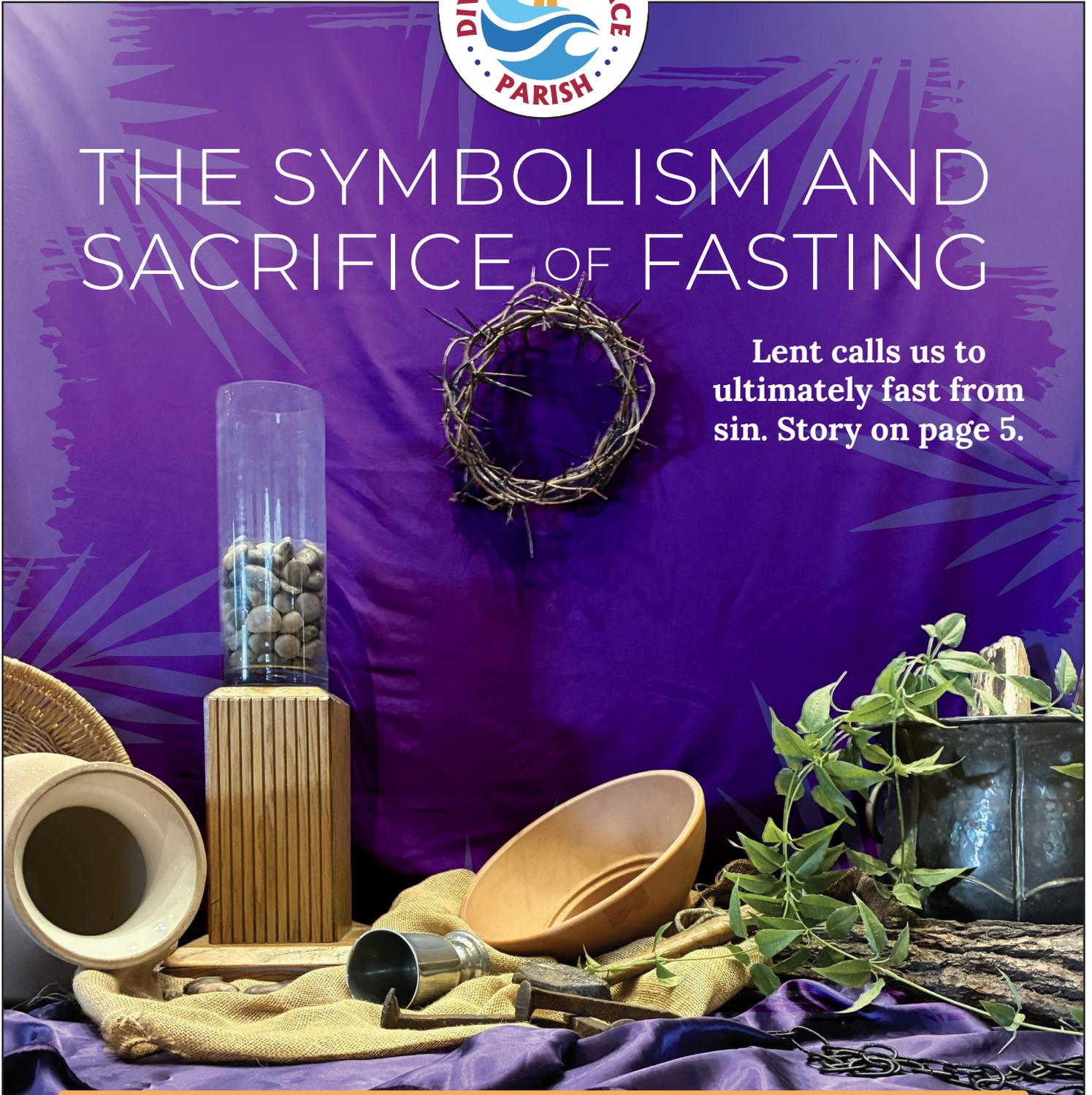
Third Sunday of Lent

March 8, 2026



## THE SYMBOLISM AND SACRIFICE OF FASTING

Lent calls us to ultimately fast from sin. Story on page 5.



*Saint Ferdinand Church*

2535 Rochester Road  
Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

@divinegracepgh †

*Saint Gregory Church*

2 West Beaver Street  
Zelienople, PA 16063

† www.divinegracepgh.org † 724-776-2888 †

*Holy Redeemer Church*

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

† parishoffice@divinegracepgh.org

# 2 Parish Leadership

Divine Grace Parish

## Our Clergy

**Father James A. Wehner**

*Pastor*

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*Senior Priest*

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*Senior Parochial Vicar*

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**Father Daniel T. Kushner**

*Parochial Vicar*

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**Deacon Joseph E. Ross**

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**Deacon Frank C. Bursic**

[fbursic@diopitt.org](mailto:fbursic@diopitt.org)

**Deacon Erik L. Pintar**

[epintar@diopitt.org](mailto:epintar@diopitt.org)

### PRESIDER SCHEDULE

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

### SAFE ENVIRONMENT

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

Diocesan Victim Assistance Hotline:

**1-888-808-1235**

To report suspected child abuse, call PA ChildLine: **1-800-932-0313**

Call 911 immediately if a child is in danger.

## Administrative Staff

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*Bulletin Layout by PilarDesigns*

Bulletin cover: *Illustration using symbols of Lent in front of Saint Ferdinand's altar.*

## Pastoral Staff

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**Divine Grace Parish Social**

**Services:** 724-758-3465

 @divinegracepgh

 @DivineGraceParishDioPitt



Whoever drinks the *water*  
I shall give will never thirst. *—John 4:13-14*

### Third Sunday of Lent

This weekend we hear of the encounter of Jesus with the Samaritan woman. The Samaritans were a breakaway group of Jews who did not believe in worship in the Temple in Jerusalem. This sounds familiar today – believe in God but you do not have to go to Church. I can believe in God on my own terms. When Jesus encounters the Samaritan woman, she is at a well drawing water. Women would draw water in the morning before the heat of the sun. But because this woman was involved in multiple marriages, she was despised by the other women. The encounter reveals the love of God for her and the opportunity to experience conversion and repentance. What aspects of our life need to be purified? Jesus promises her and us that with Him, we will never have to thirst again. Jesus is Truth. Truth is what purifies us from our pride and false hopes.

### How is Lent Going for You?

Prayer, Fasting, and Acts of Charity – these are the prescriptions for holiness, growth in faith, and repentance from sin. Discern how these practices can enhance your Christian life.

### Get Yourself to Confession

Please review the times that confessions are offered at our parish. Make a good examination of conscience and prepare well for Easter by celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation.

### Prayers for Peace

Our world and nation experience significant divisions – socially, politically, and morally. Consider spending an hour before the Blessed Sacrament – either in Adoration or just a private visit to one of our churches and pray for peace. Blessed are the Peacemakers!

### School Anniversary Mass Video

Saint Gregory School and Bishop Zubik recently celebrated 115 years of education ministry. Here is the link to the Mass video: <https://tinyurl.com/mszce8ct>

### Organ Dedication Concert Video

Thanks to your financial support, we were able to restore the nearly 100-year-old organ at Saint Gregory Church and celebrate with a dedication concert. We still need about \$50,000 to meet the \$600,000 cost of the renovation. Here is the link to the video of the organ dedication concert: <https://youtu.be/wjm9BhxzhwA>

### Fish Fry Support

Thanks to all the volunteers who are making our Friday Fish Fries at Saint Ferdinand and Saint Gregory possible. Yes, these are fundraisers but they are also ways for us to experience community.

### Oldenski Hall Update

We have secured HDG Architects who will provide us with schematic designs of the renovation of the hall which includes the construction of a new kitchen. Once we have the design by this summer, the project will then go out to bid to general contractors. We hope to secure a general contractor in Fall 2026. Construction of the new kitchen could begin in Spring 2027. I will keep everyone updated as this project unfolds.

### Thanks for Remembering Your Parish

Many of you received a letter from me asking if you could please remember Divine Grace Parish in your estate planning and will. So far, several parishioners have already made commitments which total about \$1.5 million. If you would like to discuss this effort with me, please reach out. Thank you.

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

— 1 Timothy 2:1



### Saturday, March 7 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

4:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † James R. Cortese (Connie)  
5:00 pm, Holy Redeemer † John Novak (Blanche, wife)  
5:00 pm, Saint Gregory † James P. Martin (Carol Martin)  
6:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Paul Stanzaki, Jr.  
(Richard Kremer & Joan Gonsowski)

### Sunday, March 8 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

8:00 am, Saint Ferdinand † Maria Bey (Ricci Family)  
8:00 am, Saint Gregory † John Schulte (Cora Apossos)  
9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Bernice Schoedel (Mary & Joe Kilhof)  
10:00 am, Saint Gregory † Living & Deceased of the Dalton Family  
(Herbert Family)  
10:00 am, Saint Ferdinand † Nicolino & Eleanora Donatelli  
(Eugenia Werner)  
11:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Bruno Sciote (Wife & Children)  
12:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand For Parishioners of Divine Grace Parish  
5:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Louise M. Sutton (Kavanagh Family)

### Monday, March 9

8:00 am, Saint Gregory † Mary Rita Magoni (Family)  
8:30 am, Saint Ferdinand † Anthony & Theresa Mogielski  
(Connie, daughter)  
9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Henry 'Hank' Faust (Ann Beck, sister)

### Tuesday, March 10

8:00 am, Saint Gregory † Charlie Kirk (John M. Toman & Family)  
8:30 am, Saint Ferdinand † Bernice Hilovsky (Michelle Follett)  
9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † LuAnn Santillo (Gary Yanniello)

### Wednesday, March 11

8:00 am, Saint Gregory † David Mastropietro  
(Pete & Fran Maietta)  
8:30 am, Saint Ferdinand † George Brendel (Neighbor)  
9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Rita V. Bartolomeo  
(Richard & Dorothy Schilling)  
7:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Ray (Family)  
7:00 pm, Holy Redeemer † Dr. Wayne Burick (Al & Diane Morini)

### Thursday, March 12

8:00 am, Saint Gregory † Eleanor Soltesz (Rene Rock)  
8:30 am, Saint Ferdinand † Christopher Young  
(Rosemary & Bill McGrady)  
9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † B.J. Biondi (Frank & Mary Aloï)

### Friday, March 13

8:30 am, Saint Ferdinand † Dale Benedum  
(Comfort Blanket Ministry)  
9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Deceased Members of the Riccio  
Family (Family)

### Saturday, March 14 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Joseph Carusone (Family)  
4:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † David Palmer- father of Mary Fleig  
(Family)  
5:00 pm, Holy Redeemer For Parishioners of Divine Grace Parish  
5:00 pm, Saint Gregory † Dr. Eva Calderon  
(Nick, Tricia & Stephanie)  
6:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Richard & Ruth Lorenzato (Debra Gohl)

### Sunday, March 15 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

8:00 am, Saint Ferdinand † Carol Ann Sinicki  
(Joe & Rocky Renaud)  
8:00 am, Saint Gregory † Andrew Tomei, Sr.  
(Greg & Carrie Bieselt)  
9:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Georgian Mudric (Tom & Mary Demas)  
10:00 am, Saint Gregory † Bob Richel (Drew Family)  
10:00 am, Saint Ferdinand † Bill & Rose Foerster (Family)  
11:00 am, Holy Redeemer † Debbie Feroce's mom  
(Boccardi Family)  
12:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † David Pliskaner (Mom & Dad)  
5:00 pm, Saint Ferdinand † Dan & Florence Coennen (Family)

† = deceased

## Different Ways to FAST and to **LOVE Our NEIGHBOR**

Fasting is an important discipline of Lent, but can we go beyond simply denying ourselves of foods we enjoy? The kind of fasting that God wants, underscored in Isaiah 58, involves transforming personal sacrifice into acts of love. As **Pope Leo XIV** recently wrote, we also need to “fast” from words that wound.

Christian fasting has many corporal and spiritual benefits. This ancient way of preparing for the Eucharist demonstrates our dependence on God and not the things of this world. Ultimately, it’s about fasting from sin.

The Holy Father proposed “a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor.

“Let us begin by disarming our language,” Pope Leo wrote, “avoiding harsh words and rash judgment. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities.”

Fasting also is an opportunity to respond with compassion to those in need – including our own family – and bring healing and God’s presence to others. It is not an empty ritual of humbling ourselves without changing our attitude or actions. It can be a transformation of the heart, making our sacrifice a channel for His blessings.

We can also fast from wasting time on our phones and other screens, as we learned in November in preparing for Advent.

Other options include donating food for the hungry, providing clothing for those in need, and exploring other works of mercy.

The pope encouraged the faithful to petition God for help during this penitential season. “Let us ask for the grace of a Lent that leads us to greater attentiveness to God and to the least among us,” Pope Leo concluded.



Photo credit: CNS

**“LET US BEGIN BY  
DISARMING OUR  
LANGUAGE.”**

**- POPE LEO XIV**

## MASS *Schedule*

### Saint Ferdinand Church

2535 Rochester Road  
Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

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

### Holy Redeemer Church

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

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

### Saint Gregory Church

2 West Beaver Street  
Zelienople, PA 16063

<b>Monday - Thursday</b>	8:00 am
<b>Saturday (Vigil)</b>	5:00 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	8:00 am 10:00 am





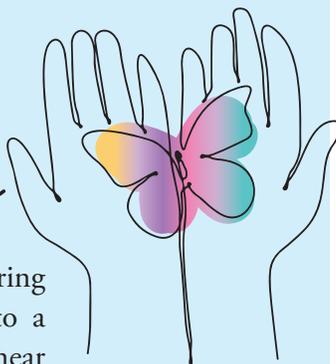
## Ministry Booklet and Information Meeting

The Lord has richly blessed Divine Grace Parish, with membership, Mass attendance, and ministries continuing to grow. Our parish has much to offer to those who are new, or parishioners interested in different opportunities to learn, serve, or make friends in faith.

Where to start? Check out the updated **Ministry Booklet**, listing more than 80 ministries, organizations and apostolates. Please visit [www.divinegracepgh.org/ministries](http://www.divinegracepgh.org/ministries) or pick up a hard copy in any of our church offices. For more information, contact the Facilitator of Ministries at [jlivorse@divinegracepgh.org](mailto:jlivorse@divinegracepgh.org) or 724-776-2888, ext. 1210.

Meanwhile, leaders of Divine Grace Ministries, Apostolates and Organizations are invited to a Ministry Information Meeting. Choose between either **Saturday, March 21** or **Saturday, March 28** from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm in Saint Gregory's Blue Room. We will be sharing updates on plans and current projects and asking for your input. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP to [jlivorse@divinegracepgh.org](mailto:jlivorse@divinegracepgh.org) or call Alena at 724-776-2888, ext. 1107.

## TRANSFORM Your Faith Life



Join us for **The Way**, a two-day retreat featuring prayer and teaching that will open your heart to a deeper encounter with Jesus. Pray with Scripture, hear God's voice, and rediscover the freedom and joy of being His beloved disciple.

The Way retreat from Preamble Group will offer transformative teachings you can integrate into your daily life.

DATES: **Sat., March 14**, 8:30 am to 8:00 pm, and **Sun., March 15**, 8:00 am Mass, Retreat 9:15 am to 5:00 pm in the Blue Room at St. Gregory. The cost is \$50 for the weekend with stipends available.

Scan the QR code to sign up.



## EUCHARISTIC 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  
(following Stations of the Cross)

### —SUNDAY—

*Holy Redeemer Church*  
12:15 pm to 4:00 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

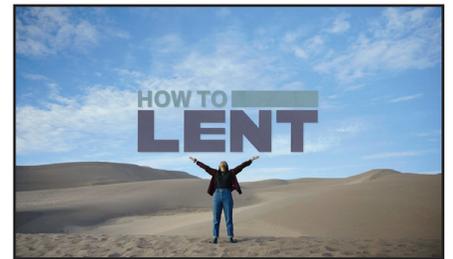
**Saint Ferdinand Church**  
10:00 am to 11:00 am

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

# This week on **formed**<sup>TM</sup> Week of March 8, 2026

## How to Lent

Lent is right around the corner. In *How to Lent*, you will be guided by priests and religious in the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving so that you can make this your best Lent yet.



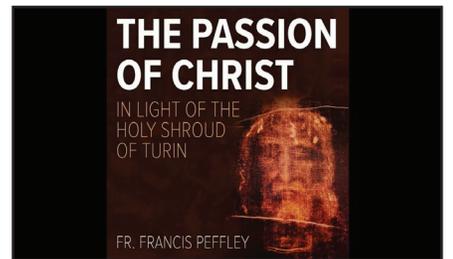
## Saint Francis

Join the Tierney family in celebrating Saint Frances of Rome, patroness of homemaking, with a look at the corporal works of mercy in the home, the Lenten history of pretzels and beer, and a fun segment where Kendra and Barbara make “trash can soup.” Find recipes and more liturgical-living ideas at Catholic All Year.



## The Passion of Christ in Light of the Holy Shroud

The Holy Shroud of Turin was called the greatest relic in Christendom by Pope St. John Paul II. Fr. Peffley presents new, detailed scientific and medical evidence for the authenticity of the Holy Shroud.



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 Deadlines for Bulletin Submissions:

With Holy Week approaching, announcements must be submitted early in order to be considered for the bulletin:

- **Palm Sunday, March 29** – Announcements are due by **Mon., March 16**
  - **Easter Sunday, April 5** – Announcements are due by **Fri., March 20**
- Please email Bob De Witt at [rdewitt@divinegracepg.org](mailto:rdewitt@divinegracepg.org). Thank you!





### 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, March 9

- 9:15 am Flame of Love, *Children's Liturgy Room*
- 9:30 am Women Gathered, *Holy Family Room*
- 10:00 am God's Precious Preemies, *Upper Room*
- 6:00 pm LifeTeen, *Youth Room*
- 7:00 pm Living Rosary, *Church*
- 7:00 pm Ultreya, *Upper Room*
- 7:00 pm Women Gathered, *Children's Liturgy Rm*

### Tuesday, March 10

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

### Wednesday, March 11

- 9:00 am Comfort Blankets, *McAndrew-Biller Hall*
- 7:00 pm K of C 11838, *McAndrew-Biller Hall*

### Thursday, March 12

- 7:00 pm Adult Choir, *Church*
- 7:30 pm Men's Club, *McAndrew-Biller Hall*

### Friday, March 13

- 9:00 am Stations of the Cross, *Church*
- 11:30 am Fish Fry, *Oldenski Hall*
- 4:00 pm Fish Fry, *Oldenski Hall*
- 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross, *Church*

### Sunday, March 15

- 8:00 pm Lenten Holy Hour, *Church*

### Parish Seder Meal

Join us for a Parish Seder Meal to remember our Lord's Last Supper. We will gather with family and friends on **Palm Sunday, March 29**, at 5:00 pm in Saint Ferdinand's McAndrew-Biller Hall. The meal will include roasted lamb, potatoes and green beans. Adults \$25, children \$15. Please register by **Monday, March 23** by scanning the QR code. If you'd like to help with the meal, scan the volunteer code.



### Join a 200-Year Tradition

You are invited by the Knights of Columbus Council 11838 to pray the Living Rosary on **Monday, March 9**, at 7:00 pm at Saint Ferdinand Church. A 90-foot Rosary is stretched down the main aisle of the church and everyone holds a bead while praying. The Association of the Living Rosary was founded in 1826 in France to make the rosary more accessible.

### Prayers for Healing

The Saint Peregrine Prayer Service will be held on **Monday, March 23** at 7:00 pm in Saint Ferdinand Church. All are welcome to come pray for the sick and support one another.

### Planting Seeds of Hope

Divine Grace Parish is starting an Addiction Recovery Ministry for those who have lost a family member or friend because of overdose or addiction. Our goal is to offer hope and support to anyone grieving after such a terrible loss. Meetings will be held **Wednesdays starting April 8** and continuing through June 3 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at Saint Ferdinand's Upper Room. If you know of someone who has experienced this tragedy, please invite them. Contact Deacon Tim Noca at [tnoca@diopitt.org](mailto:tnoca@diopitt.org) or 412-607-8328.



God is love  
1 JOHN 4:8



## 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

### Lenten Pizza Sale March 20

The Christian Mothers are offering red or white pizza sheets for \$10 on **Friday, March 20**, with pickup from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm in the Catholic Center. Pre-orders will be taken **March 10-17**, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, at 724-758-7587, ext. 3002. Scan the QR code to order.



### Pizza Greens Sale March 13

The Divine Grace Social Club's sale is **Friday, March 13** from noon to 5:00 pm in the Catholic Center lunch room. Cost is \$5 each. Pre-order at the Holy Redeemer office: 724-758-7587.

### The Goal of Lent is Jesus

Madison keeps her eye on the ball – and the target – as faith formation students at Holy Redeemer placed soccer balls on the wall. The message above the net says it all: The Goal of Lent is Jesus.



### Christian Mothers / Ladies Guild

The Confraternity of Christian Mothers and Ladies Guild will hold its first meeting of 2026 on **Monday, March 22** at the Holy Redeemer Catholic Center. All adult women, single or married, are welcome to join us in prayer and fellowship. Recitation of the Rosary will begin at 6:30 pm, followed by a light meal and business meeting.

Contact Jackie Dimeo, president: 724-333-5947 or Mary Parente, membership chair: 724-758-6006.

### Lenten Movie Night

On **Monday, March 16**, the featured film is *All or Nothing: Sr. Clare Crockett*. Soup & sandwiches at 6:00 pm in the Holy Redeemer Catholic Center; showtime is 6:30 pm. No cost or RSVP needed.

### Grief Support Group

The Seasons of Hope support group for bereaved adults begins a new six-week session on **Tue., March 10** at 6:00 pm in the Holy Redeemer Catholic Center. It offers prayer, support, and a confidential space to share or simply listen. For more information, contact Luann at [bereavehr@divinegracepgh.org](mailto:bereavehr@divinegracepgh.org).



## This Week at Holy Redeemer Church

### Tuesday, March 10

6:00 pm Seasons of Hope, *Catholic Center*

### Wednesday, March 11

7:30 pm Ultreya, *Convent Chapel*

### Thursday, March 12

6:00 pm Choir, *Church*

### Friday, March 13

Noon-5 pm Pizza Greens Sale, *Cath Ctr Lunch Rm*

5:00 pm Bingo, *Catholic Center*

7:00 pm Stations of the Cross, *Church*

### Sunday, March 15

1:00 pm Knotted with Love, *Cath Ctr Lunch Rm*

4:00 pm Community Dinner, *Cath Ctr Lunch Rm*



### Saint Gregory Office Hours

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

### Gift Card Distribution



The Saint Gregory Conference of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is inviting families and individuals in need of assistance to apply for a gift card to help celebrate Easter. To qualify, residents must live in one of four zip codes in the Zelienople area (16063, 16037, 16033, or 16123) and finish their paperwork before the gift card distribution, which will take place on **Friday, March 27**, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in the St. Gregory Church office. To apply, email [SVDPsg@divinegracepgh.org](mailto:SVDPsg@divinegracepgh.org) or call 724-556-9907 by 2:00 pm on **Friday, March 20**.



### This Week at Saint Gregory Church

#### Tuesday, March 10

7:00 pm Walking with Moms, *School Library*

#### Thursday, March 12

6:30 pm Pastoral Council, *School Library*

#### Friday, March 13

2:30/7 pm Stations of the Cross, *Church*  
4:00 pm Fish Fry, *School Cafeteria*

#### Saturday, March 14

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

### Stations of the Cross

Join us **Fridays in Lent** for Stations of the Cross:

St. Gregory Church – 2:30 pm, 7:00 pm  
St. Ferdinand Church – after 8:30 am Mass, 7:00 pm  
Holy Redeemer Church – 7:00 pm

Prayerfully consider making this meaningful devotion part of your Lenten observance.

### How is our Parish Doing?

The Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey will continue through **March 29, Palm Sunday**. Parishioners are invited to reflect on where they are on their journey of discipleship and gauge how effective Divine Grace Parish is in supporting them since the DMI inquiry was done in Lent of 2023.



All individual responses are confidential. To take the survey, scan this QR code or use paper forms in our church narthexes.

### Annual Parish Appeal

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of the 2026 Parish Appeal, which funds diocesan-wide ministries of service, formation, and pastoral care, including our seminarians, retired priests, and administrative services that parishes could not afford on their own.

### YOUTH SHADOW STATIONS



Saint Gregory School students present Christ's Passion using a backlit white sheet, creating a powerful, prayerful Lenten experience at Saint Gregory Church on **Friday, March 20** at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

If today you hear His *voice*,  
harden not your *hearts*

### The Passion of the Christ

The film depicting the final hours of Jesus Christ's life will be shown on **Palm Sunday, March 29**, 6:00 pm at Holy Redeemer Catholic Center. This powerful movie is often described as a "conversion of heart" experience, leading to a deeper commitment to the faith.



Bishop Eckman hosted a dinner on March 1 for more than 100 men to talk about whether God may be calling them to the priesthood. The young men shown here are from Divine Grace Parish. Please continue to pray for an increase in priestly vocations.

### Family Fun Night March 21

The final Family Fun Night of the season is set for **Saturday, March 21**, starting at 6:00 pm at the Holy Redeemer Catholic Center. Enjoy fun, food and fellowship, and help us say hello to Spring!

### Help for Homework Helpers

A new parish ministry is helping more students in Ellwood City and needs support. Homework Helpers is lending a hand to young learners in the Walnut Ridge housing development, and are in need of supplies. Please consider choosing from this Amazon wish list to help. Thank you!



### Be a Bridge Builder

Parishioners are signing up for FreeWill through **The Fund for Divine Grace Parish**, our new endowment created with the Catholic Foundation for Greater Pittsburgh, to simplify legacy giving and help build a bridge to our future. Common legacy gifts include bequests, retirement plans, life insurance designations, matching gifts, and charitable trusts or annuities. Visit <https://partner.freewill.com/cfgpitt> and [www.cfgpitt.org](http://www.cfgpitt.org) to create a will or make a legacy gift.

### Getting Tax Documents Ready

If you would like a copy of your parish contribution statement for your income taxes, please call the Saint Ferdinand office at 724-776-2888, ext. 1101. Statements can be mailed or picked up at the office. If you give online, contact 866-930-4774, option 6, or [donorsupport@parishsoft.com](mailto:donorsupport@parishsoft.com).

### Trip to see 'JOSHUA'

'JOSHUA' puts the audience right into Scripture, the Israelites fleeing Egypt, surviving storms and advancing armies, and ending up at the crumbling walls of Jericho. Catch this memorable live performance at the Sight & Sound Theatres in Lancaster, PA, on **Friday, September 18**. Our chartered bus will return the next day. Details at <https://divinegracepgh.org/joshua-lancaster>.

### DIVINE GRACE PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT



Sunday Collection total for  
February 21-22, 2026 = **\$33,688**  
Second Collection = **\$4,043**  
*(for Youth & Young Adult Ministry)*  
Ash Wednesday collection = **\$3,836**

Parish Members = 18,882 | Parish Households = 7,119

This weekend's second collection is for Building Maintenance. Thank you for your generosity.

# Unpacking the Word



Jason Gawaldo, *Director for Evangelization & Catechetical Ministries*

## — Exodus 17:3-7 —

“Is the LORD in our midst or not?” What a question! What an honest testament to the people’s condition of heart in the earliest days of the Exodus! And what an indictment of you and me today. You see, it is easy for us to look back at the children of Israel and look down on their silly lack of faith in the God who just a few months prior visited ten plagues on Egypt and gained them their freedom by parting the Red Sea, who has been standing before them day and night in a visible form (see Exodus 13:17-22), and who has been feeding them every day with miraculous bread from heaven (see Exodus 16:1-35). And yet we are not much different than our spiritual parents in the wilderness. That cynical, forgetful hardness of heart creeps in asking, “Is the LORD in our midst or not?”

**The people are so hardhearted that they romanticize their lives as slaves in Egypt** to explain away the Lord’s inexplicable actions, or seemingly lack thereof. Would that we had stayed on a path and in a place that was not good for us. At least we thought we understood it a bit and had some control. At least we knew how to operate, even if it was a bad and unhealthy situation, such as slavery is. Today we may wonder, where is the restoration of the Church? When will we get our act together? When will you and I realize that we represent Jesus Christ wherever we go, even when we don’t feel like it? We look at our own lives and struggles and wonder: Is the LORD in our midst or not?

**Notice what the Lord said to Moses and says to us:** “I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb.” Is the LORD in our midst or not? Yes, he is. We just cannot see him right now. He has gone ahead and is waiting for us to deliver water from a rock so that we

won’t perish. Despite our grumbling and murmuring, despite our desire at times to go back to our own personal slavery in Egypt. The Lord provides for us in ways we cannot always see and do not often understand in the moment. He comes to us in sacrament, through outward and efficacious signs that actually change things on a spiritual level.

**Is the LORD in our midst or not?** Yes, yes He is. He is at work restoring his Church, and He is at work restoring you. He will be standing there in front of you in what looks like bread so that He can live within you. He will be standing there before you in the Confessional so He can begin purifying the world in you. For our Catechumens, He will be standing there before you in the waters of Baptism to wash away every trace of sin in your life. He will be standing there before you in your spouse as you provide a living image of Jesus’ love for his Bride, the Church. He will be standing there before you in the oils of Confirmation and Anointing of the Sick to strengthen you as His soldier and to strengthen you to bear sickness well.

Is the LORD in our midst or not? Oh, he most definitely is. And if you hear his voice today, whether in word or in sacrament, do not harden your heart.

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

† *Soli Deo gloria* †

Saint Gregory Organ Dedication  
Concert, scan the QR code to  
enjoy the full video presentation.





Michael Assaf, Ministry Coordinator of Youth & Young Adults

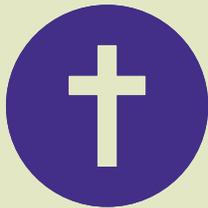


**LIFETEEN**  
divine grace parish

– Upcoming Schedule –  
Weekly Meeting

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm  
Saint Ferdinand  
March 9, 16 & 23

Bible study 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm  
March 10, 17 & 24



*welcome*

Jocelyn & Paul Joseph,  
who will lead youth ministry  
at Holy Redeemer Church.

Upcoming meetings: LifeTeen  
Night on **Tuesday March 17**,  
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm in the  
Catholic Center for youth and  
parents to meet the Core Team  
and learn about plans.

LifeTeen Meeting on  
**Tuesday, March 24** at 6:30 pm  
in the Catholic Center.

**LIFE TEEN SPRING RETREAT**  
The Road Ahead

**April 10 – 11**

A weekend to rest, renew, and  
reconnect with God and one another.



Lower Ropes course, team building activities,  
Eucharistic Adoration, and so much more!

**All in grades 7–12 are welcome!**

Scan the QR code to register.

**Location: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Camp, Volant**

**Help Young People get the EDGE**

EDGE is our new Middle School faith formation program designed to help young teens be more active in their faith. We meet on Sunday and Tuesday evenings at St. Ferdinand and are in need of volunteers. They help with anything from leading ice-breakers, giving talks and testimonials, guiding small group discussions, taking photos, and much more! If you might feel called to this ministry, contact Michael Assaf at [massaf@divinegracepgh.org](mailto:massaf@divinegracepgh.org).

**Faith on Fire 2026 Lenten Retreat**

Young adults 18–39 are invited to Faith on Fire 2026, a Lenten weekend of prayer, fellowship, and renewal at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Camp. With Adoration, Confession, home-cooked meals, and guided reflections from **Deacon Don Ruby, Stephen Hartle, and Christine Miller**, this retreat offers a meaningful way to deepen your walk with Christ. Space is limited to 55 participants. Join us **March 20–22** and rekindle your faith this Lent. To learn more, visit <https://faithonfirepgh.com/events>.

**Faith and Friends**

Young adults ages 21–39 are invited to gather at Club Hope, 26 Fountain Ave. in Ellwood City, on **Thursday, March 26** from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Enjoy beer, wine, appetizers, a talk from guest speaker **Wally Gagric**. Hope to see you there!

# 14 Saint Gregory Catholic School

Divine Grace Parish



## PRINCIPALS OF PAST & PRESENT

Three of St. Gregory School's Principals together! (L-R) Mrs. Erin Rice (principal from 2012-23), Mrs. Michelle O'Shea (current), and Mrs. Mary Ann Nock (1989-2012) reflect on changes and growth at the 115<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass.



## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

St. Gregory Catholic School is pleased to announce our 2026 NHRCES Distinguished Alumni recipient is Cindy Haney.

Cindy is a graduate of St. Gregory School and is currently employed at the school. She started as the librarian 22 years ago and grew to become a full-time administrative assistant. She is a member of Divine Grace Parish, where she has been involved with the Women's Guild and knitting hats for preemies. She is also involved with various school events like the pancake breakfasts and monthly school BINGOs.

Thank you Cindy for being a wonderful example of living out the Catholic faith.



#CSW2026

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## THANK YOU TO OUR STAFF!

Students in Mrs. Tkatch's 3rd Grade class said "Thank you 'SNOW' much" to several staff members! Mr. Mike and Mr. Harmer received thank you notes for all they do around our school, keeping everything clean and making student lunches! Photos: Mr. Mike (top) and Mr. Harmer (bottom) with students.



## SCHOOL FISH FRY

**Fridays through March 27** from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the School Cafeteria. Meal includes main entrée, two sides, coleslaw & dinner roll. Call **724-452-8010** after 3:30 pm for takeout.

**Adult options:** Battered 9 oz. fried cod, Breaded 8 oz. baked cod, 9 oz. fried fish sandwich, Six large fried shrimp (Cost: Adults \$15, Seniors 65+ \$12)

**Kid menu:** ½ Fried Fish Dinner, ½ Shrimp Dinner, Pizza (Cost: Kids ages 4-10 \$6, 3 & under free)

**Sides:** Mac & cheese, Fries, Vege or Weekly Special

**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.



**Prayer Garden**

*Saint Ferdinand*

A candle burns for:

*Anthony & Theresa Mogielski*  
from daughter Connie

*Mary Patricia Ruffing*  
from Tina



**Sancturay Candle**

Sanctuary Candle

A candle burns for:

*Carol Young*  
from Carol Davis

**Please keep them in your Prayers**



**Dearly  
Departed**

Mary K. Carsele  
Pat Climo  
Thomas Kilian  
Frank Joseph Losos III  
Dolores Majors  
Patricia Marks  
Rosemarie Moser  
Jacqueline Powell  
Bruno D. Suppa



**Newly  
Baptized**

Corey Michael  
David Jonathan  
Elliana Mae  
Enzo Steven  
Grace Patricia  
Louie Joseph  
Rhodes Edward  
Seamus Michael  
Preston Thomas  
Vera Jo



**New  
Members**

Mr. & Mrs. David Acker  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Bentley  
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Berry  
Cole Family  
Mr. Kobe C. Dawson  
Mr. Austin Dombeck  
Mr. & Mrs. David Dorogy  
Miss Julia Fodor  
Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Ford  
Mr. Thomas & Mrs. Alexandra Gatlin  
Mr. Jerome Gaughan  
Miss Kendall Graham  
Miss Sydney Hale  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Helbling  
Michele Henry  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Johnston  
Mr. & Mrs. James Limbacher  
Ester Mazhindu  
Miss Brittania McClintick  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Moeller  
Mrs. Donna Moul  
Mrs. Mary Katerine Nail  
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Mr. & Mrs. Mark Renyck  
Mr. & Mrs. Justin Ruff  
Mr. & Mrs. David Schaffner III  
Mrs. Julieane Swain  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Sylvester  
Mr. David Tellez & Marly G. Lucena  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Thieret  
Mr. Seth Owen Wolverton





Be a *Light* for all to see.

- Matthew 5:16

### A Night of Connection

Good Ground Family Ministry is a new multi-parish initiative dedicated to building a Christ-centered community supporting parents of children with special needs. We seek to offer practical resources, encouragement, and connection. Families are warmly invited to A Night of Connection on **Friday, April 24** from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish, Saints John & Paul Campus. Open to 50 families; registration is required. A \$30 donation is requested but optional. Volunteers welcome. Scan the QR codes.



VOLUNTEER



REGISTER

### Resources for Parishioners

Divine Grace Parish partners with several local agencies to support those in need throughout the year.

**Meals & Fellowship:** Senior Community Meal: Served every 4th Friday at the Cranberry Township Municipal Center. To attend, call the Butler County Area Agency on Aging at 724-431-1205. Community Dinner: Sundays at 4:00 pm at the Holy Redeemer Catholic Center. All are welcome; no RSVP needed.

**Help at Home:** Our counties' Area Agencies on Aging offer assistance with groceries, light cleaning, home care, transportation, and more. They will visit your home and create a personalized plan. Beaver County: 724-847-2262, Butler County: 724-282-3008, Lawrence County: 724-658-3729.

Catholic Charities also provides senior services in Ellwood City: 724-752-9435. For more information or to volunteer, contact the numbers above or email Jennifer at [jlivorse@divinegracepgh.org](mailto:jlivorse@divinegracepgh.org).

### Priority 2 Work Career Connections

Looking for work? Join us to network and explore job opportunities. Meet career mentors and local employer reps for job search strategies, interviewing prep, networking, storytelling for your resume and cover letter, and learn about our FREE skills training. **Tuesday, March 24**, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm, doors open 6:30 pm. Saint Mark the Evangelist Parish, Saint Kilian Church Hall, lower level. Scan the QR code to register or visit <https://tinyurl.com/268fbt8>



### Free Income Tax Prep

Residents of Butler, Lawrence, or Beaver counties whose individual or family annual gross income is \$60,000 or less can have their tax returns prepared and e-filed at no cost. This service is being offered again by VITA – Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. Taxpayers can schedule appointments in Cranberry, Butler, or Slippery Rock. Visit [www.pa211.org/vita](http://www.pa211.org/vita) or dial 211 option 1.

## HELPING THE EASTER BUNNY

More than 5,000 plastic eggs will be filled for our annual Faith Formation Easter Egg Hunt on **Saturday, April 4** to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord! If you would like to donate candy for the kids, please visit <https://divinegracepgh.org/egghunt> to purchase through our Amazon Wishlist. Or you can drop off candy at the Saint Ferdinand Faith Formation office Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Thank you!



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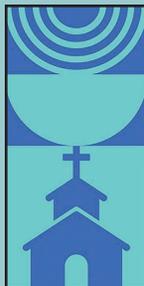
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