THE CITIES OF GOD

ST. GREGORY PARISH

THE HOLY FAMILY

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;
and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:40

DECEMBER 27, 2020

HOLY REDEEMER CHURCH
415 4th St, Ellwood City
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 10:00 am
Communion: 11:00 - 11:15 am

SAINT GREGORY CHURCH
2 West Beaver St, Zelienople
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 11:00 am
Communion: 12:00 - 12:15 pm

SAINT FERDINAND CHURCH
2535 Rochester Rd, Cranberry Twp.
Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm
Sunday: 10:00 am
Communion: 5:00 - 5:15 pm and
11:00 - 11:15 am

St. Gregory Website: www.stgregparish.org | **Weekday Mass Schedule:** Monday—Thursday 8:00 am; Friday 9:15 am

LITURGY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
5:00 pm | Palley, Muller & Schott Families - Family
11:00 am | Nicholas Geimer - Daughter, Claire

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28
The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
8:00 am | Harry Baugher - Kaye Baugher

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29
Fifth Day within the Octave of The Nativity of the Lord
8:00 am | Ronie Mathe - Harriet Demeretz

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30
Sixth Day within the Octave of The Nativity of the Lord
8:00 am | Audrey Sherman - Husband, Ed

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31
Seventh Day within the Octave of The Nativity of the Lord
8:00 am | Intentions of Rev. Wm. Dorner - The Devens Family
4:00 pm | Jesse V & Mary Magill - Family

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1
The Octave Day of The Nativity of the Lord; Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
9:00 am | Garrett Deutsch - Sandra Jones

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2
Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishop
10:00 am | Confessions at St. Gregory Church
5:00 pm | Michael Bizub, Jr. - Nudi - Bizub Family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3
Epiphany of the Lord
11:00 am | Norbert Belsterling - Wife, Marilyn

CLERGY FOR PARISH GROUPING

Administrator:
Rev. Philip N. Farrell 724-452-7245
Senior Priest:
Rev. John P. Gallagher 724-776-2888
Senior Parochial Vicar:
Rev. Mark L. Thomas 724-758-4411
Parochial Vicar:
Rev. David J. Egan 724-776-2888
Deacon:
Donald C. Pepe 724-452-7245

PARISH & SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Parish Secretary:
Diane Devens ..... E-Mail: parishoffice@stgregzelie.org
Parish Office: 724-452-7245
M-F 9:00 am to 3:00 pm ..... Fax 724-452-4064
Closed for Lunch 12 - 12:30 pm
Bulletin ..... E– Mail: bulletin@stgregzelie.org
Ritzert Hall Rental: temporarily suspended 724-452-7245
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Cathy Nowak ..... E-Mail: cathy@stferd.org
Pastoral Associate:
Sister Patricia Myers, SHS ..... E-Mail: srpatty1@verizon.net
Director of Faith Formation:
Audra Brown ..... E-Mail: ccd@stgregzelie.org
Program Manager:
Denise Knauff ..... E-Mail: dknauff@stgregzelie.org
Music Director:
Adam Blotzer ..... E-Mail: blotzeradam@gmail.com
Business Manager:
Julie Strosnider ..... E-Mail: jstrosnider@stgregzelie.org
Maintenance Director Jim Bucek ..... maintenance@stgregzelie.org

St. Gregory School: 724-452-9731
School ..... E-Mail: schooloffice@stgregzelie.org
Principal:
Erin Rice ..... E-Mail: erice@stgregzelie.org
School Cafeteria:
Andy Harmer 724-452-8010
St. Gregory School Website ..... www.stgregzelie.org
St. Gregory Website: ..... www.stgregparish.org

SACRAMENTS

Sacrament of Baptism
By appointment. Baptisms will be scheduled after parents have completed the baptism class and have obtained godparent sponsor letters and baby's birth certificate.

Sacrament of Matrimony
You must contact and meet with the priest at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick
Please call the St. Gregory office if you or a loved one is in need of this Sacrament.

Sacrament of Holy Orders
If you feel that God may be calling you to the Priesthood or to the Permanent Diaconate, please contact the parish office.

Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation
Saturday: 10:00 am | Also by appointment.

Communion - Low-Gluten Hosts are available. Please come to the Sacristy before Mass.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Last week, I thought about wishing everyone "Merry Christmas!" in my column, but then I reconsidered. While the celebration of Christmas would be occurring the coming week, last Sunday was still Advent. If we really want to appreciate Christmas, we first need to appreciate Advent. We need the time to hope and wait that Advent affords us in order to enter into the full beauty of Christmas. We can't just take Christmas at face value because then it stays at the level of nice stories or even commercialism. Instead, by taking the time to anticipate and prepare our hearts, then Christ is able to be reborn once again for us as an event of faith.

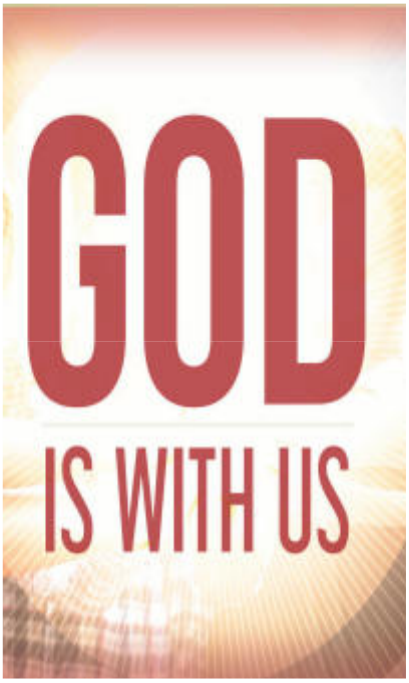
The same holds true for the merger of OUR Grouping. After 2+ years, maybe WE just want to get the merger over and done with so that WE can move on. Sometimes it may appear that WE do a lot of talking and hold a lot of meetings, and yet nothing has changed. It's important to remember that it's not only about change, but about a change of heart. WE all need the time to talk and to listen, and as WE do this, WE gain a deeper insight into what the Lord wants of US and of how WE can cooperate with Him in the power of the Spirit. This is God's Church for US, and this will only come about if OUR faith is truly personal with the Lord, OUR hope is built on trust and joyful expectation, and OUR love is not OURS at all but the love of Christ that WE share with Him and one another.

This means that Church is about relationships and relationship building. This doesn't happen overnight or by US merely wishing it to happen. As is true of any relationship, it requires a maturity on both parts, a joyful dream of a future together, a willingness to give without counting the cost, and an openness to grow and develop into something/someone that the individuals could never be on their own. The future will be strong provided the present is strong.

As Advent is a chance for US to peel back the layers of OUR heart to make full room for the coming of OUR Savior at Christmas, so too this time of preparation for a merger is a prime opportunity for all of US to understand OURselves and one another in a uniquely new relationship that only the Lord can and will unfold for US. If WE are willing to hope in faith and love over the next year and beyond, OUR time together will be a joyful Advent of readying OURselves to welcome the birth of our Lord – a new Christmas – as WE become a new expression of the presence of Christ in OUR world.

Now that WE are actually in the appropriate season, I feel confident to say it, "On behalf of the Clergy Team and the Staffs of all of OUR three parishes, Merry Christmas and may the Good Lord bestow His abundant blessings upon you and your families!"

God Bless The Cities of God!



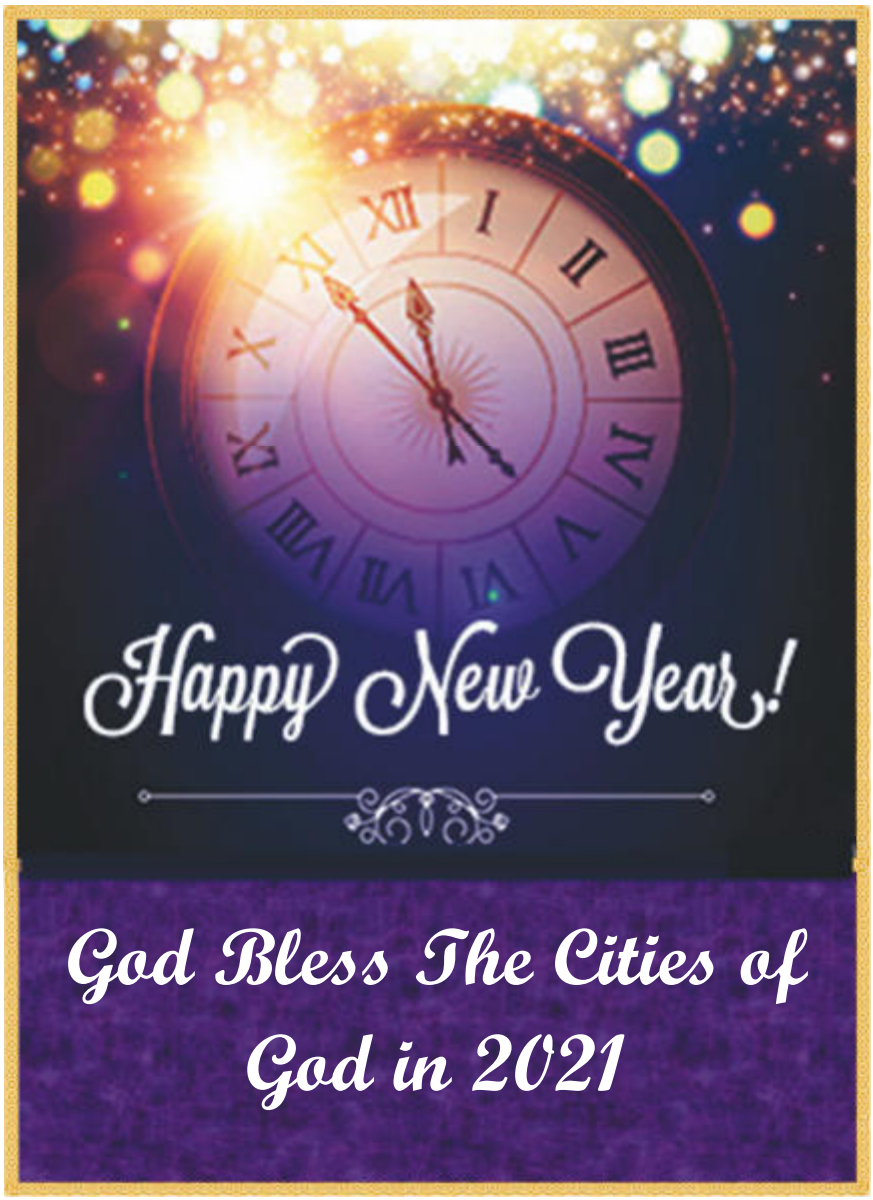
Mary, Mother of God

ST. GREGORY CHURCH	HOLY REDEEMER CHURCH	ST. FERDINAND CHURCH
	DECEMBER 31, VIGIL MASS	
4:00 pm	5:00 pm	7:00 pm
	JANUARY 1, HOLY DAY	
9:00 am	9:00 am	8:30 am 12:00 pm

MEALS ON WHEELS

Beginning February 1 and ending February 26, St. Gregory's parishioners are being asked to provide desserts for our area's home-bound senior citizens through Meals on Wheels. This year they are requesting 55 desserts per day for lunch (40 regular and 15 diabetic) and 55 desserts for dinner (40 regular and 15 diabetic). It is not necessary to supply all the required desserts for the day. Mary Ann Brill (724-368-3313) will coordinate your baked or bought goods with others ensuring the necessary amounts are provided. All desserts must be delivered between 7:00 and 9:00 a.m. to the English Lutheran Church, Grandview Avenue in Zelie. All churches take a turn and this is our scheduled time. Please see the flyer on the next page of this bulletin. If you need a flyer you can print one from our website at: https://www.stgregparish.org/participate
All you need to do is highlight the flyer and print.

OUR PARISHES



THE HOLY FAMILY

The home is the principal place of catechesis. The home of Nazareth, in addition to the local synagogue, would have been the place of instruction for the Christ Child. The Holy Family taught Jesus how to read, and at the start of his public ministry Jesus would read from the scroll and declare the passage to be fulfilled in their hearing (see Lk 4:21). Mary and Joseph would have taught the Christ Child how to pray, and years later, Jesus would teach his disciples how to pray the Our Father. Joseph would have handed on his trade to his son, who later would die on the wood of a cross. Jesus had a great concern for the poor and the marginalized. In the home of Nazareth, he learned how to be humble and kind. The home of Nazareth reminds us that families have the responsibility of teaching their children the Faith and to model the virtues. Parents today can learn from Joseph and Mary on how to teach their children.

Important Dates Ahead:
January 10th: We will continue to do class at home until we have guidelines from the Diocese to provide classes on-site. 2nd Grade and 6-8th at this time will continue to have Zoom sessions for preparation of the Sacraments. If we can have Zoom for the other grades, we will definitely keep you posted at the start of the New Year.
January 13th: First Reconciliation Parent Meeting at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Link will be provided closer to the date.
January 17th: Confirmation Parent Meeting at 10:00 AM via Zoom. Link will be provided closer to the date.
All 7th & 8th Grade: A new syllabus will be sent via email on December 28th. Keep a look out.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Ron Rishack
Adella Barr
Mary Polanchak
Elaine Hafner
Judy Kingerski
Mary Tomayko
Tina Loomis

READINGS | WEEK OF DECEMBER 27, 2020

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40
Monday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18
Friday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28
Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-1

This Week

Monday, December 28

8:00 am Mass
Parish Office Closed
No Private Prayer

Thursday, December 31

8:00 am Mass
Parish Office Closed
No Private Prayer
4:00 pm Mass

Friday, January 1

Happy New Year
Parish Office Closed
No Private Prayer
9:00 am Mass

Saturday, January 2

10:00 am Confessions
No Private Prayer
5:00 pm Mass

MEALS ON WHEELS

UPCOMING EVENT **PLEASE SUPPORT**

Each year, St. Gregory's Parish provides desserts for our senior citizens who need assistance with their meals. This year our turn will be February 1 through the 28. We are hoping you will be as generous as you have been in the past in coming to their aid. Please consider baking an item, making Jell-O or pudding, purchasing fruit, or donating cash. This year, they are in need of 55 (40 regular and 15 diabetic) items for both lunch and dinner. **You do not need to provide all items.**

Please complete the slip indicating your willingness to participate and **return via mail to the parish office at 2 W Beaver St, Zelienople, PA or electronically by January 25 (magreb105@zoominternet.net).** You will then be contacted to finalize a date and item(s) you will be providing. All items are to be delivered directly to English Lutheran Church on Grandview Avenue, Zelienople between 7:00 and 9:00 a.m.

If you have any questions, please call Mary Ann Brill (724-368-3313) or email magreb105@zoominternet.net

Please complete and return by January 25, 2021

Please print:

Name _____

Phone number _____

e-mail address _____

Preferred date: _____

Number / item providing: _____ (40 Regular / 15 Diabetic)

St. Gregory
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

OUR VISION:

To ensure that all students receive a strong faith foundation which manifests the love of God and mutual respect for all. The strong collaboration among our school community fosters the development of each individual's unique gifts and talents to lead him/her to academic excellence. Through this, we are preparing our students to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow with determination.

The students and staff of St. Gregory School hope that everyone enjoyed a peaceful and healthy Christmas holiday and we wish you all a Blessed and Safe 2021.

School Registration – 2021-2022

Registration for the upcoming school year will begin on Tuesday, January 19, for all parishioners of St. Gregory, St. Ferdinand and Holy Redeemer and on Monday, January 25, for all other interested families.
We will be accepting students in grades Kindergarten through 8th grade and Pre-school for 3 and 4-year-old-children.

St. Gregory School has been offering a strong faith-filled and academic education since 1911, and we welcome anyone to join our school family.

You can contact the school office at 724-452-9731 for more information or to receive a registration packet, or visit our website at stgregzelie.org.

You will have time to get your Scratch-Off Raffle Ticket!

Winner receives 2 packages each of: $30 / $20 / $10 / $5 PA scratch-off lottery tickets. That's 360 Scratch-Offs PLUS $100 Cash!
Winning Ticket will be pulled Mon, Jan 4 at 5:00 pm via a live-stream drawing on Facebook.

Tickets are available at the school office (115 Pine Street, Zelienople) but please call first due to the Christmas break or you can purchase them online at https://ScratchOff1220.givesmart.com

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