

THE CITIES OF GOD

ST. GREGORY PARISH



JANUARY 10, 2021

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

PRAYER & WORSHIP

Liturgical Schedule / Parish & School Directory

LITURGY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

Baptism of the Lord
5:00 pm | Sophia Stefurak - Christopher &
Renae Bogdan
11:00 am | Rosella Kolling - Husband, Bill

MONDAY, JANUARY 11

First Week in Ordinary Time
8:00 am | Robert Coyner, Sr. - McNeill Family

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12

8:00 am | Andy - Brother, George

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

Saint Hilary, Bishop
8:00 am | Carol Kehoe Ekey - Carl & Joyce
Mengel

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

8:00 am | Leo Rauterkus - Ed Sherman

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

9:15 am | Ernest & Emma Springer - The
Cummings Family

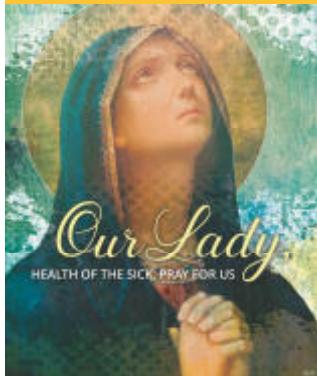
SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

Blessed Virgin Mary
10:00 am | Confessions at St. Gregory Church
5:00 pm | Carol Kehoe Ekey - Charlie & Teri
Bernath

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
11:00 am | Emma & Ernest Springer - The
Cummings Family

PLEASE PRAY FOR



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

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.

FROM OUR ADMINISTRATOR

THE FIRST STEP

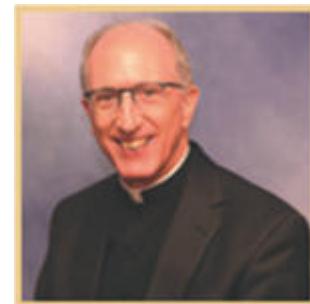
They say that every journey begins with the first step. Ever since 15 October 2018, WE have taken many steps toward a new configuration of OUR parishes. With 2021, WE enter the home stretch, and these steps will be critical to OUR future. Much of the preparatory work has been thought out. WE've discussed facts and figures, strategies and outcomes. Much talk has gone into envisioning in the light of people, places, and things. WE're eager to know the end, but are WE prepared for the beginning? The foundations WE lay now, the first and critical step, will determine how WE proceed and what the final result will be. What is Church, and do WE want to be that? Without answers to this, WE have no future.

A church is a building, but being Church is about living and hoping a life of faith in spiritual community with others. Yes, there are Masses and sacraments, clergy and religious and laity, budgets and buildings. However, before any of this can come into play, there is – and must be – the Great Commandment to love God and to love one another. Without this, any dream for the future, any exercise of religion, is shallow and hollow. OUR primary work should be prayer because WE are not people of today but people of eternity. And OUR prayer should be that God's will be done and not OUR personal agendas. This may be hard because WE all have an idea of what WE'd like to see, but WE need the spiritual insight to recognize what God needs to see.

Do WE trust God enough to become Church according to His standard?

In the coming 12 months, there will be many conversations – conversations with the Diocese, conversations with various parish committees, conversations with parishioners both collectively and individually. However, the most important conversations will be the ones WE have with God, and especially the ones in which WE listen more than WE speak. True, many of the most obvious ones will be about people, places, and things – the stuff of OUR lives and of OUR community. However, they must all begin with prayer, end with prayer, and be couched in prayer. Even OUR very reason for having a conversation should be so that WE might be able to create and foster a deeper sense of prayer, as an ongoing awareness and presence of God in OUR lives.

There are religious shrines around the world where the faithful approach not as casual observers but as faithful supplicants, and they do this on their knees. As WE begin this final and critical phase in the development of OUR Grouping, may WE approach the task not just with binders full of data and spreadsheets to prove OUR point. May OUR first and foundational step be made on OUR knees beseeching God to fashion and create us into becoming Church, the People of God, who do His will and spread His Word.



God Bless The Cities of God!

READINGS | WEEK OF JANUARY 10, 2020

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11 or Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3]/Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

Monday: Heb 1:1-6/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9 [cf. 7c]/Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 7]/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 [8a]/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11 [8]/Mk 1:40-45

Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8 [cf. 7b]/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 [cf. Jn 6:63c]/Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 [8a, 9a]/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42

COLLECTIONS

DECEMBER 27

Sunday Offering \$10,458.80

AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

The Cities of God- "A Past to Remember, a Present to Celebrate and a Future Full of Promise."

JANUARY

MEALS ON WHEELS

DID YOU SIGN UP YET?

Did you sign up to assist in providing desserts for our home-bound senior citizens? It will take the cooperation of the whole parish for success. Please call Mary Ann Brill (724-368-3313) or email magreb105@zoominternet.net to participate.

All desserts must be delivered between 7:00 and 9:00 a.m. to the English Lutheran Church, Grandview Avenue in Zelie. If COVID-19 is a concern, in lieu of delivering desserts, and monetary gift can be provided and Meals on Wheels will take care of the dessert needs.

All churches take a turn, and this is our scheduled time. Please see the flyer in the Jan. 3 bulletin. It can be printed from the bulletin. www.stgregparish.org/bulletins-3.

ST ANTHONY SCHOOL COLLECTION

A special message from St. Anthony School Programs and DePaul School for Hearing and Speech:

A new year is upon us and we are so grateful to have the opportunity to share a bit about our programs and to work together once again. This weekend has been designated for the special collection to benefit St. Anthony School Programs and DePaul School for Hearing and Speech. On behalf of our students and staff, we can't thank you enough for supporting these invaluable programs that benefit many members of our Diocese.

St. Anthony's and DePaul both fill a necessary role for special education within the Diocese of Pittsburgh. St. Anthony School Programs offers an inclusive education to children ages 5-21 years with special needs and DePaul School for Hearing and Speech teaches children, birth to 14 years, who are deaf or hard of hearing to listen, speak, and learn. Both programs empower students to become active and contributing members of their respective communities.

Any help you can give is deeply appreciated and makes a tremendous impact on the students we serve, as well as their families. Our fundraising efforts have been greatly impacted by the pandemic, so again, any support you are able to give means so much. Thank you for your time and God bless.

The flyer features a red border. At the top, the text "Every child is a gift from God!" is written in red. Below this, it says "January 16-17" and "is the Parish Share Special Collection to benefit the students of St. Anthony School Programs and DePaul School for Hearing and Speech". In the center, there is a large photo of a young boy in a purple jacket looking up. Around him are five smaller photos of children inside white gift boxes with red bows. In the bottom left corner is the St. Anthony logo with the text "St. Anthony" and "Exceptional Opportunities for a Lifetime". In the bottom right corner is the DePaul School for Hearing & Speech logo.

WHEN GOD WHISPERS

"You don't need to shout. My hearing works just fine."

Are you a parent that has used that one on your kids? I'm not sure at what age they realize that the volume of their voice doesn't correlate to the likelihood of receiving a favorable reply — it might be sometime in the teenage years, when the talking slows down altogether.

But I've got to admit, it would be nice if God always gave us a loud and dramatic sign when He wanted something — the booming voice and the torn-open heavens ("This is my beloved Son!") really get the message across. Sometimes I find myself envious of the Apostles, who were able to witness such things in person.

The fact of the matter is, in the year 2021, God is more likely to speak in a whisper than in a shout. The prophet Isaiah forewarns that Christ himself will not be a noisemaker — for all his preaching, he will not cry out or shout to bring forth justice to the nations. His way is altogether different than that.

We are not the Apostles, and we do not have the privilege of seeing the Holy Spirit descend on Christ like a dove. But here's the good news: God doesn't need to shout. Our spiritual hearing works just fine. We just have to be listening.

Let's wake up each morning ready to hear God's whispers throughout the day. Let's make a conscious effort to invite those whispers into our hearts, where they can become a catalyst for grace in this world.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

We need history. We need it in order to understand ourselves, personally and collectively. The pieces of our histories may not have always been the most positive, honest, exemplary, dignified, proud and best moments of our lives, but they are ours. We have to acknowledge, remember, accept, and often heal them. We cannot forget them or pretend that they never existed. As horrible as the atrocities of events like Auschwitz, brutal injustices committed throughout the human journey, or personal painful experiences in our own stories, we need to remember. These times when humanity in general or people in particular have lost their way are times that need to be reconciled and redeemed.

If we lose the memories, we will make the same mistakes again. The human soul needs a strong sense of affirmation, direction, and clear purpose. Without these essentials, we will easily run amuck and repeat the sins of our past. God's voice throughout history has spoken precisely about this! We are reminded through the voices and example of many prophets and witnesses not to make the same mistakes again, come back to center, discover the purpose given to us by God, maintain a sense of proper direction, seek healing for wounds and be reconciled to our Creator.

Baptism is so incredibly important for the salvation of humankind, not only eternally but here and now. Our existence depends upon it. It gives us the affirmation we need from God by gifting us with the same intimate relationship Jesus had with the Father. We are blessed with the direction and clear purpose we need in order to be productive stewards and faithful Christians. Baptism calls us to remember, accept, and deal with the sins and inequities of our past regardless of how hurtful and serious. We consciously choose to turn away from them and put on the new life of Christ. To do this well, we must look hard and long at our sins and failings, listen to what they are saying and learn from them. If we ignore the past, collectively or personally, or pretend that it never happened, we will never grow. We will surely die.

People need to hear the message, lived and spoken, delivered by the baptized members of the Body of Christ. It is an essential message of hope that is layered with visions of justice, peace, reconciliation, redemption, blessing, and healing. It is a message that helps us remember what has gone before, the graces and the sins, and bring ourselves by God's help where we need to be. We are called to do much more than sit home behind our closed doors. We have a message to deliver. Are we ready to do so?

SUNDAY REFLECTIONS

SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call him while he is near.
Let the scoundrel forsake his way,
and the wicked man his thoughts;
Let him turn to the LORD for mercy;
to our God, who is generous in forgiving (Is 55:6-7)

PSALM:

You will draw water joyfully from the springs of
salvation. (Is 12:3)

SECOND READING:

This is the one who came through water and blood,
Jesus Christ,
not by water alone, but by water and blood. (1 Jn 5:6)

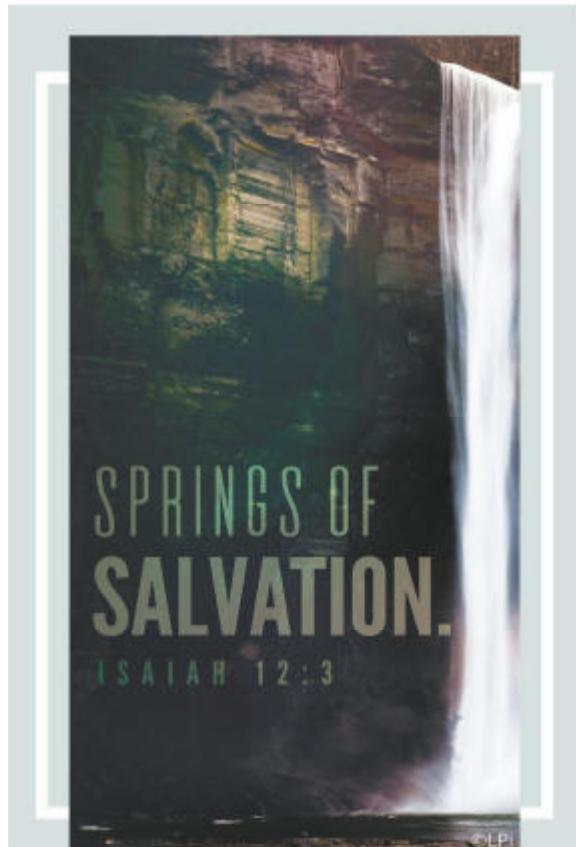
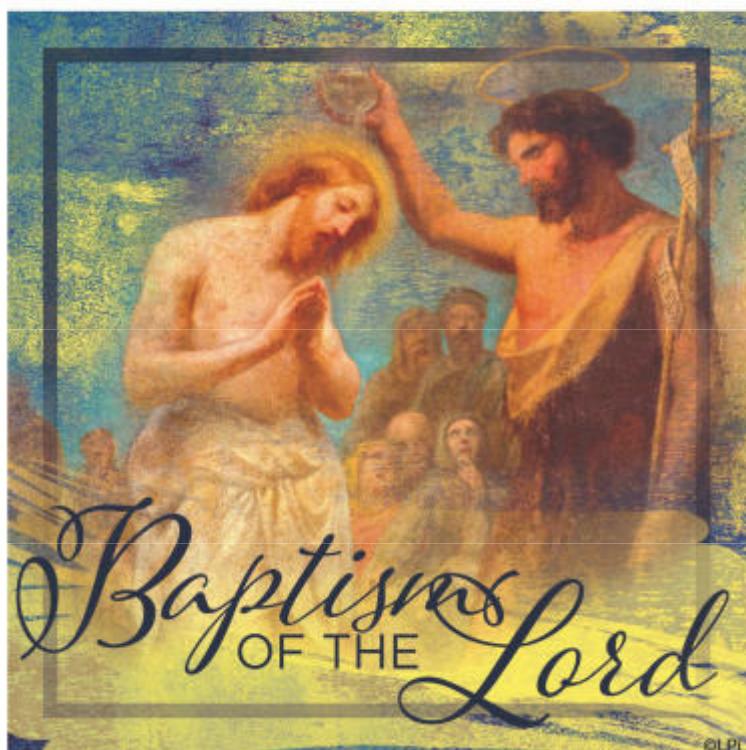
GOSPEL:

And a voice came from the heavens,
"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."
(Mk 1:11)

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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 10, 2021

Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord
Wednesday: St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



REFLECT

FIRST READING

Isaiah was called to be a prophet to bring justice and freedom to those suffering, to be a "light for the nations." How do you see yourself serving others in need in your life?

SECOND READING

John teaches his community that God Himself has "testified on behalf of His Son." In what way does this divine assurance help strengthen your faith?

GOSPEL READING

The preaching of John the Baptist and the baptism of Jesus is the opening scene in the Gospel of Mark. In Jesus' baptism, the Father, Son, and Spirit were fully present. As a baptized Christian, can you think of a time when you experienced God's presence?

Registration – 2021-2022

Registration for the upcoming school year begins 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.

Congratulations to the
JANUARY LOTTERY SCRATCH-OFF
RAFFLE WINNER

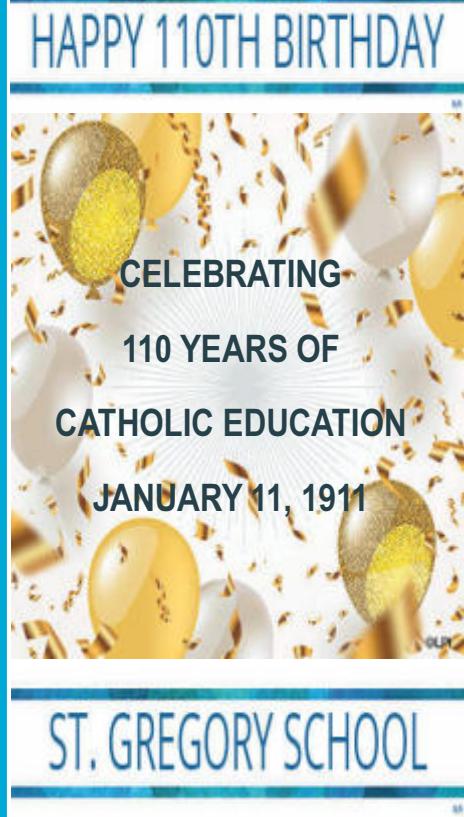
Nathaniel and Cheryl Homison
Ticket # 572
Thanks to Everyone who
participated
Please try again in March!



St. Gregory School will be selling tickets once again for a Scratch-Off Raffle
The winner receives 360 Scratch-Off PA Lottery Tickets plus \$100 Cash

Must be 18 years or older to purchase a ticket. The winner must be a resident of PA. Void after 60 days. Not responsible for typographical errors. Small games of Chance #04181. Credit card sales are NOT permitted. Payment linked to a checking account is permissible. Tickets purchased online will be mailed or if agreed upon, emailed to the purchaser. Please contact the school office at 724-452-9731 if you would like to be present for the live drawing.

You may purchase tickets at the school office located at
115 Pine Street or at
<https://ScratchOff1220.givesmart.com>



Pepperoni Roll Fundraiser

St. Gregory School is selling Zoni Pepperoni Rolls!
Dinner is ready to go....fresh out of your oven!Check out why so many people are saying these are the BEST Pepperoni Rolls in town!
\$14.00 each...Feeds 3-4 people.

Orders are due Monday, January 11th... Don't delay....place your order today!
Order pick-up will be Friday, January 22nd in the church lot between 3:00 - 4:00 pm.

Call the school office at 724-452-9731 or contact Christie Pierce at
christie_pierce@hotmail.com

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