

THE CITIES OF GOD

ST. GREGORY PARISH

*“I am the Vine,
you are the
branches.
Whoever remains in
me and I in him will
bear much fruit,
because without me
you can do nothing.”*

Jn 15:5

MAY 2, 2021 | FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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, MAY 2

Fifth Sunday of Easter
5:00 pm | Richard Brill - Nolan and Alex Bogats
11:00 am | Bruce A. Davis - Glenn and Nancy Davis

MONDAY, MAY 3

Saints Philip and James, Apostles
8:00 am | Ruth Flick - Claire Dorsch

TUESDAY, MAY 4

Easter Weekday
8:00 am | Karen Polakovic - McNeill Family

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

Easter Weekday
8:00 am | Raymond Marburger - Mary Ann Thompson

THURSDAY, MAY 6

National Day of Prayer
8:00 am | Rita Geimer Razum - Sister, Claire

FRIDAY, MAY 7

Easter Weekday
9:15 am | Henicheck Family - Stirling & Maddix Families

SATURDAY, MAY 8

Easter Weekday
10:00 am | Confessions at St. Gregory Church
5:00 pm | Marrienne Clendenning - The St. Gregory Extraordinary Ministers

SUNDAY, MAY 9

Sixth Sunday of Easter
11:00 am | Dorothy A. Lipp - Dee

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

Jeffrey (Jeff) Ludwikowski 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.

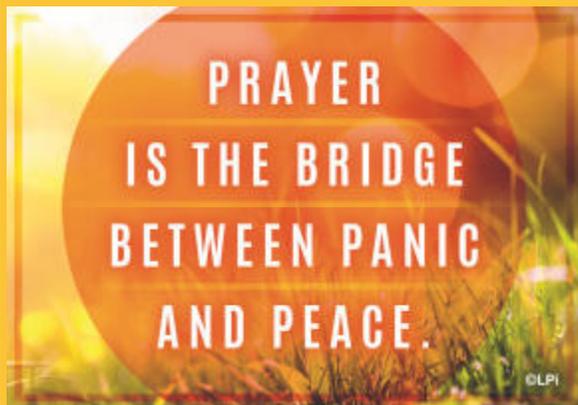
Sacrament of Holy Orders

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

WE BELONG TOGETHER

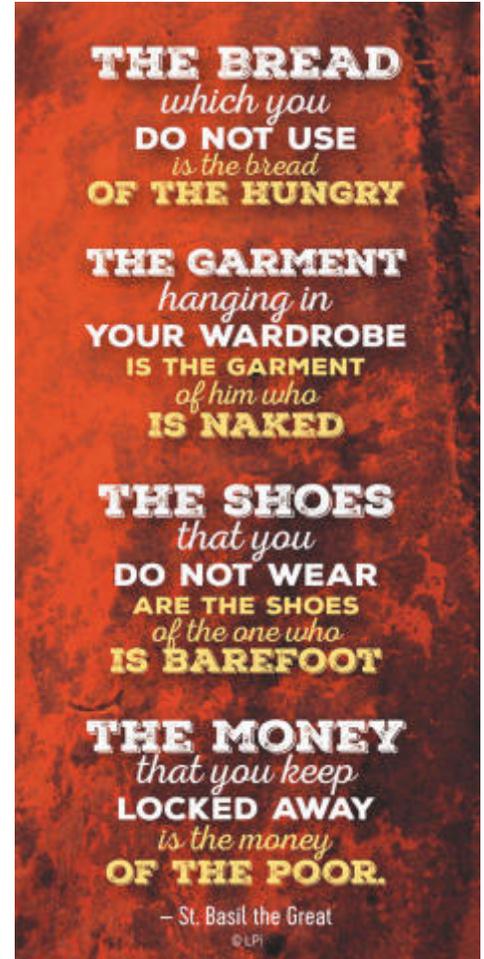
One of the more interesting characters of the Scriptures (besides Jesus, of course), is St. Paul. Paul was a Pharisee, a good Jewish lawyer. He knew how to dig into the facts and present a good case. He was committed to the truth and upheld it with conviction. Imagine the humiliation he must have felt when he realized that he was wrong! On the road to Damascus, the Risen Jesus knocked him off his high horse and challenged Paul to defend the Christian faith, rather than oppose it. From that point on, for Paul, there was no turning back. He preached and defended the Way of Jesus Christ throughout the Gentile world. As we hear in this weekend's First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Paul wouldn't back down, and so some among the Gentiles even sought to kill him. Paul now knew the Truth, and nothing or no one would cause him to waver.

And so, what is that truth which Paul so vigorously stood up for and eventually died for? Our Gospel passage from John tells us that the true source of our life is Christ. Each of us, either as individuals or as communities of faith, needs to be grounded, or rooted, in Him. He is first and foremost before any of us. He is like a vine, and we are like branches growing from that vine. We may each look a little different; we may each sprout off in a different direction, but the vine is the originator and sustainer of our life. Because of that, we can only bear one fruit, the Truth. As I write this, I watch a large bush/tree

dancing in the breeze and filled with beautiful pink blossoms. Some blossoms are high up; others are low; all sides are covered. If a branch is broken or fallen off, there are no blossoms on it. Once the blossoms fall off the tree they die.

This isn't just a beautiful rural image. This is the Truth of who WE are! WE need to hold it dear and defend it with every breath of OUR life. God didn't just make me; more importantly, He made US. I can only be me if I belong to US, and WE can only be US if WE belong to God in Christ Jesus the Lord. This isn't just science or mathematics; this is OUR faith. On Wednesday, 21 April, I once again met with the employees of OUR three parishes and discussed the development of an organizational plan to unite OUR staffing roles for the benefit of OUR newly merged parish, come January 2022. WE will all be charged with ministering to the needs of all of OUR parishioners across the vast expanse of OUR new parish. Because of the size of OUR new enterprise, this organization will be phased in leading up to the merge date. Once these plans become more final through discussions with various committees, I will be proudly announcing how WE will all be better able, hopefully, to serve one another. As St. Paul was called to follow Jesus with purpose and conviction, I believe Christ is calling all of US to follow Him with purpose and conviction through uncertainty into faith and trust to find new life as one in Christ. The Truth is...WE belong together.

God Bless The Cities of God!



READINGS | WEEK OF MAY 2, 2021

Sunday: Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 [26a]/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8
 Monday: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Jn 14:6-14
 Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21 [cf. 12]/Jn 14:27-31a
 Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 [cf. 1]/Jn 15:1-8
 Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10 [3]/Jn 15:9-11
 Friday: Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12 [10a]/Jn 15:12-17
 Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21
 Next Sunday: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 [cf. 2b]/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-11

AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

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



SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION -

CONFIRMATION will be celebrated on May 22 and May 29 this year at St. Gregory Parish.

Due to the Church being used during the morning and afternoon, there will be no confessions on all the above dates at St. Gregory. On May 22 and 29 there will be no confessions at any of our Grouping Churches.



OUR PARISHES

ST. GREGORY

RESPECT LIFE NEWS:

Want Mom to be recognized in a special way this year? Our Respect Life bulletin board in the vestibule of St. Gregory Church is going to feature our beautiful Moms for Mother's Day! If you would like to submit a picture of your Mom (with you or individually) you may do so in one of three ways. Label it, "for respect life bulletin board" and send a copy of it to ilivorse@zoominternet.net or mail a photo to the St. Gregory Church Office. You may also place it in a marked envelope and drop it in the box labeled "Mother's Day Pictures for Bulletin Board" that will be on the table in the vestibule. We will do the same for our Dads in June so start collecting your pictures now!

ST. FERDINAND

GIFT CARDS for local stores and restaurants are available at St. Ferdinand Parish Office. The Church receives a discount for each sale. Anyone can participate.

HOLY REDEEMER

THE ST. ANTHONY NOVENA will begin on Tuesday, April 20. This year the Novena will be said from home. Father Mark has asked that we pray together from home on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm. Father Mark will lead the prayers from the Convent Chapel. If you would like to join in please [click here](#) or type this link into your browser: <https://holyredeemerparishpgh.com/st-anthony-novena-at-home>.



On Monday February 22, 2021 our nation reached the grim milestone of 500,000 deaths due to Covid. At that time, a small faith prayer group formed with the goal of saying one *Hail Mary* for each soul who died from Covid in the United States. To date, this group has said 37,335 prayers. This is wonderful, but there are currently 568,796 deaths recorded in the United States.

You are invited to join this group in prayer. If you would like to join in praying, then just start saying *Hail Marys* for these souls. Or if you prefer to say an *Our Father* that is also great. Some people pray all *Hail Marys*; some pray all rosaries; some prefer to use spontaneous prayer and count the number of minutes they pray. Each and all of these are wonderful.

A rosary is 60 prayers; or say 10 *Hail Marys* in the shower; or 10 *Hail Marys* while vacuuming; or 5 *Hail Marys* while you go out to get the mail; or 15 *Hail Marys* driving to pick up your groceries; or 2 *Hail Marys* on a break at work; once a week, or once every two weeks, or whenever is convenient for you, just send your total (since the last self-report) to: CovidPrayerGroup@gmail.com Your email will then be added to the distribution list and you will receive total updates every 10-14 days via BCC. Thanks for praying with us. And God Bless all of us who have experienced loss from Covid.

CURRENT RUNNING TOTAL = 37,335 prayers

TENTATIVE DATE: JUNE 21-25TH

FROM 9:30 AM – 12:15 PM

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Our Parishes would like to have a Vacation Bible School and we need your help to do that.

If you or a Teen (6th grade and older) have been away from the Church or your faith and would like to get back into your relationship with God, VBS is a great way to jump back in.

Let's make VBS our great kick off to the summer in faith.

Please contact Mrs. Brown at ccd@stgregzelie.org or audra@stferd.org by May 8th.

CONFIRMATION CLASS: Reminder, Confirmation Retreat is

May 8 and May 16. If you haven't signed up yet, please be sure to let Mrs. Brown know the date and time you plan to attend. See you there!

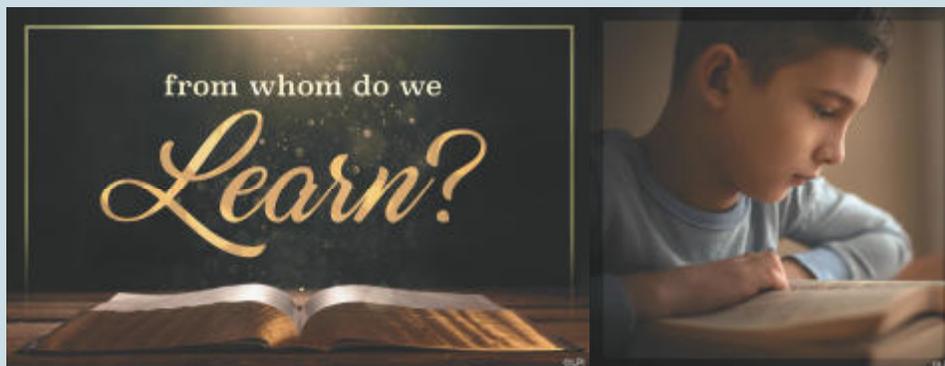


5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER GOSPEL MEDITATION

“Spiraling out of control,” is a phrase that can easily describe the current display of human existence. In addition to the violence, unrest, uneasiness and turmoil that are common elements of our daily news, other essential pieces are misplaced or missing. Many lack an objective center around which to order and structure their lives or a clear set of definable goals or mores to act as guideposts and life directives. It appears that “feelings” have become a “new god” and traditional structures and ideals set aside. It is almost as if history only shows that we got this whole thing wrong and many are determined to finally set things right. The real truth, however, is that while wrongs and errors are certainly a part of our often-checked past, it is hardly the case that all was wrong. It is not our task to rewrite the history of our lives, but to learn from mistakes that were made, and preserve the perennial wisdom at the root of our successes. Learning is an essential part of being human.

The question becomes, however, from whom do we learn? Some have such a hard time placing God in that position, but that is precisely where God needs to be. God is the Master Teacher from whom all of humanity learns and gets its cues. It is in and through this relationship with the Gardener of Life that we are fashioned and pruned into the people we are intended to be and can be. It is only in God that we are able to find our best selves. Sadly, many think that religion too, as well as history in general, has also gotten all this wrong. Yet, our resurrection faith tells us differently. We are reminded, today especially, that we are meant to remain in Christ as Christ remains in us. We are also reminded that Jesus, the Incarnate God, is the vine upon which we grow, the branches that flow from the source of God's life.

Giving up our will to God's can be a painful endeavor. It is not easy to set our own desires and wants aside and allow God to step in and direct and guide our growth. But this is the only way to prevent deadly weeds from overtaking us and bringing us to a place of self-destruction. God's commandments are the very guideposts and benchmarks we need, yet many seek to remove them from all public view because they appear to limit self-expression and suppress what is considered by many to be “human freedom.” They are the only way we can find freedom, however. And, until we learn this fundamental lesson, we will continue to spiral out of control, never really knowing who we are, what our potential can be or how life really can be lived. We will not know peace.



PARISH NEWS

Pray For | Appalachia | Ascension Schedule

PLEASE PRAY FOR



PLEASE KEEP THESE IN NEED OF HEALING IN YOUR PRAYERS

- Eleanora Milbert
- Peggy
- Michael Mack
- Betty Korczynski
- Dorothy Mellon
- Adella Barr
- Elaine Hafner
- Mary Tomayko
- Tina Loomis
- Sharon Hunter
- Norbert Miller
- Mickey Lefevre
- Amy Stubenhofer
- Bob Bablak
- Rodolfo Vaccaro

SCRIPTURE STUDY ON ZOOM

Join us for the second scripture study in May on the third Monday in May on the 17th. To register, please send an email to julie@stferd.org with your name and preferred email address. You must register by the following date to receive the Zoom link.

Register by May 12, and you will receive the Zoom link on May 13.

For the Monday, May 17, Study with Father Philip Farrell

COLLECTIONS

APRIL 11

Sunday Offering \$11,845.00

WHY USE INCENSE?

QUESTION:

Why do we use incense at Mass?

ANSWER:

The use of incense in religious ceremonies and worship is a practice that predates Christianity, and which is also found in many other religious traditions today.

Incense, which is made from resin infused with aromatic spices and oils, is one of those fundamentally human symbols that incorporates more than one of our senses, helping us to reflect on realities that transcend the everyday details of our lives.

The use of incense in the Church's liturgy — in the Mass, as well as in devotions to the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours — is inspired by the use of incense in the Jewish tradition. In the writings of the Old Testament, we hear about incense being used in the worship of the temple, and Psalm 141 asks, "Let my prayer be incense before you; my uplifted hands an evening offering" (vs. 2). The image here is that, as the incense gently rises to heaven, our prayers also rise to God as something sweet and pleasant.

Another ancient use of incense that has also become part of our Catholic tradition is the idea that when we incense something, it's because it is something special or sacred.

This is why the Book of the Gospel is incensed during the Liturgy of the Word and the bread, wine, priest celebrant, and congregation are incensed at the presentation of the gifts. To this, we can also add the incensing of the Blessed Sacrament during eucharistic adoration and benediction, and the body of the deceased at the end of the Mass of the Resurrection (the Funeral Mass).

APPALACHIA MISSION IS GEARING UP!

Would you like to support the Lord's working hands? Look for your yellow envelope in your packet or donate online at

<https://stgregzelie.weshareonline.org/> in May, to help fund our Mission trip to West Virginia in June. Thank you for your support.

Ascension
Holy Day of Obligation
Thursday, May 13
Vigil and Holy Day Schedule

		May 12 Vigil Masses	May 13 Holy Day Masses
St. Gregory	*	7:00 pm	7:00 pm
St. Ferdinand	*	7:00 pm	8:30 am 12:00 pm
Holy Redeemer	*	—	9:00 am 7:00 pm

*Morning, daily Masses on Wednesday, May 12, are as usual for the grouping.
Mass Reservations for Ascension are required and begin Monday, May 10 at St. Gregory.



Meet the Staff—Mrs. Erin Rice

My name is Erin Rice, and it has been my privilege and honor to be a part of the St. Gregory School community for the past 16 years. I began teaching as a substitute in 4th grade before quickly taking over the middle-level English position in 2005. I taught for 5 years and then became Mrs. Nock's Assistant Principal while I worked on my Master's Degree in Educational Leadership. I have been the Principal at St. Gregory School since the 2011-2012 school year.

My husband, Jamie, step-kids Brewer and Skout, son Macklin, and I live in Pittsburgh. We enjoy bike riding and going on city adventures. Macklin is a 1st grader at St. Greg's, so I love my role both as principal and a mom at the school.

I am blessed to be able to go to school every day and love the job that I am doing. It is my prayer to continue to be a blessing and be blessed by my daily interactions with the students and staff that I am privileged to work with every day.



Our First Graders celebrated Earth Day 2021 with their beautiful artwork and learned the importance of plant life by growing marigolds from seed. Great job everyone!



Our PTG would like to say
"Thank You"
to all who
purchased tickets for our
Spring Purse Raffle!!

And the winners are:

- Coach Anna Crossbody: Julie White
- Michael Kors Brooke: Jen Stickle
- Kate Spade Adel: Jessica Shirey
- Tory Burch: Jessica Shirey
- Radley London: Beth Cebula
- Kate Spade Geraldine: Emily Lozosky
- Coach Rowan: Charmaine Rapko
- Kate Spade Minnie: Adam Carter
- Kate Spade wallet: Carol Keener
- Mystery Michael Kors: Julie White
- Vera Bradley Beach Bundle: Yvonne Stoops
- Vera Bradley Fireworks Bundle: Christine Meyer
- 50/50 Raffle \$533: Lisa Barchetti

St. Gregory PTG is grateful to the following generous sponsors of our Spring Purse Raffle.

Premier Eyecare of Cranberry Township

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The Ice Box Creamery of Zelienople

Please keep them in mind the next time you are out shopping!

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