THE CITIES OF GOD

ST. GREGORY PARISH

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!"—that is, "Be opened!" - Mk 7:33b-34

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

Holy Redeemer Church415 4th St, Ellwood CitySaturday Vigil5:00 pmSunday9:00 am11:00 am

Saint Gregory Church
2 West Beaver Street, ZelienopleSaturday Vigil5:00 pmSunday8:00 am
11:30 am

Saint Ferdinand Church

2535 Rochester Rd, Cranberry Twp

<u>Saturday Vigil</u> <u>Sunday</u>

4:00 pm
6:00 pm
8:00 am
10:00 am
12:00 pm
5:00 pm

PRAYER & WORSHIP

Liturgical Schedule | Parish & School Directory

LITURGY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 5:00 pm | Anna Peiritsch Geimer - Daughter, Claire 8:00 am | Ruth Flick - Daughters , Nancy & Jean 11:30 am | Tom & Terry Zinkham - Family

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Labor Day 9:00 am | Ben Gessler - The Fyda Family

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

8:00 am | Bonnie & Philip Saffer - The Cummings Family

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 8:00 am | Walt Velte - Tim & Beth Velte

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

St. Peter Claver, Priest 8:00 am | In Celebration of Meg Alexander's 10th Birthday - Ree Mitra

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

9:15 am | Alumni of St. Gregory School - The Belsterling-Keener Family

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Blessed Virgin Mary 10:00 am | Confessions at St. Gregory Church 5:00 pm | Robert J. Ingenito - St. Gregory School Teachers & Staff

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 800 am | Adella Barr - Classmates from St. Gregory School 11:30 am | Sylvester "Corky" Mashuda - Wife, Jenny



CLERGY FOR PARISH GROUPING

Administrator:	
Rev. Philip N. Farrell	4-452-7245
Senior Priest:	
Rev. John P. Gallagher724	4-776-2888
Senior Parochial Vicar:	
Rev. Mark L. Thomas72	24-758-4411
Parochial Vicar:	
Rev. David J. Egan	4-776-2888
Deacon:	
Donald C. Pepe	4-452-7245
Jeffrey (Jeff) Ludwikowski	4-452-7245

PARISH & SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Parish Secretary:

Parisi Secretary.
Diane DevensE-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
BulletinĒ– Mail: bulletin@stgregzelie.org
Ritzert Hall Rental: temporarily suspended724-452-7245
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Cathy NowakE-Mail: cathy@stferd.org
Pastoral Associate:
Sister Patricia Myers, SHSE-Mail: srpatty1@verizon.net
Director of Faith Formation:
Dr. Thomas Brozich E-Mail: ccd@stgregzelie.org
Faith Formation Program Manager:
Denise KnauffE-Mail: dknauff@stgregzelie.org
Music Director:
Adam BlotzerE-Mail: blotzeradam@gmail.com
Business Manager:
Julie StrosniderE-Mail: jstrosnider@stgregzelie.org
Maintenance Director Jim Bucek maintenance@stgregzelie.org

St. Gregory School:	
School	E-Mail: schooloffice@stgregzelie.org
Principal:	
Erin Rice	E-Mail: erice@stgregzelie.org
School Cafeteria:	
Andy Harmer	
St. Gregory School Website	www.stgregzelie.org
St. Gregory Website:	<u>www.stgregparish.org</u>

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 IS IT (IM)POSSIBLE

The easiest answer to any request is "No." It costs too much. It's too difficult. There aren't enough people. There's not enough time. It doesn't make sense. No one cares. We can all come up with a laundry list of why any request is unreasonable, but is it necessarily impossible? Even more so, is it absolutely unnecessary? We easily write off things because we don't want to do them, even if we could or should. Sometimes a dream can become a reality if we just think hard enough or, better yet, if we trust and believe hard enough.

This weekend, the prophet Isaiah reminds the children of Israel that the Lord can actually do the unthinkable and even the impossible. God can take them out of exile and bring them home - a thing no one imagined could ever happen. The Lord can bring about a reversal of many concerns in our lives. He just asks that we keep our hearts open to Him in trust. A trust that's always geared toward giving God the space and latitude to do what His will sees fit to accomplish in our lives. At the same time, He asks that we cooperate in bringing His will to fruition. It's not that God is a part of our plan, but that we are a part of His. We need to dream big and work with God to see what happens. In fact, maybe even our dream is an inspiration from God to take action. We'll never know unless we give it a try. How sad it would have been if the people in this weekend's Gospel account thought it was a big waste of time to bring the man who was deaf and mute to Jesus. If they hadn't asked for the favor. then Jesus

may not have been in a position to bring healing. What a shame that would have been. As they say, it never hurts to ask, and maybe God is waiting for us to do just that. In God's eyes, no one's request is too big or too small for Him; no one's request is more important that someone else's. The Letter of James this weekend reminds us that the Lord cares for all of us equally because He loves all of us equally. As such, our dreams need to be not just for ourselves but for all of us.

Bishop Zubik's episcopal motto is "Nothing is Impossible with God". As WE move forward through the process of merging, WE would do well to keep this motto in mind. Who am I to say - who are any of US to say - that the Bishop's dream for OUR parishes isn't actually the word of God on the Bishop's lips? Could it be that the Lord has this great dream for US? If so, He'll most definitely make it happen through US. What WE need to do is constantly test the waters in order to see if what WE think is what God thinks. If so. WE're on the right track. With the help of so many throughout OUR parishes, WE have been able to dream big and make great strides in accomplishing God's plan for US. Of course, the larger burden is on the Lord's shoulders, and He continually comes through when I - or anyone else for that matter think it can't be done. It's amazing how the voices from all across the Grouping have helped to project and clarify the future. Could those be the many voices of God Himself? You know, it IS possible!

God Bless The Cities of God!

PS. Part of the planning for the merger is to think big in hiring individuals who will serve all of our faithful in all of our parishes even before the merger occurs. Before the merger, they will work for all three parishes as one, and after the merger, they will then work for the one merged parish in the same capacity. As I hope you have seen in our bulletin and on our website, we have been posting for a variety of positions to care for our many expanded needs. With the help of members of Pastoral Council and Finance Council, we have created job descriptions, weeded through resumes, and interviewed potential candidates. I am happy to announce that, with God's guidance, we have brought on board a first wave of new hires to keep us strong as a parish both for now and well into the future. May I present them to you:

(Please see the next page)

READINGS | WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

Sunday: Is 35:4-7a/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 [1b]/Jas 2:1-5/Mk 7:31-37 Monday: Col 1:24-2:3/Ps 62:6-7, 9 [8]/Lk 6:6-11 Tuesday: Col 2:6-15/Ps 145:1b-2, 8-9, 10-11 [9]/Lk 6:12-19 Wednesday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6ab, 6c [Is 61:10]/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23 Thursday: Col 3:12-17/Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6 [6]/Lk 6:27-38 Friday: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 11 [cf. 5]/Lk 6:39-42 Saturday: 1 Tm 1:15-17/Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a and 6-7 [2]/Lk 6:43-49 Next Sunday: Is 50:5-9a/Ps 116:1-2, 3 -4, 5-6, 8-9 [9]/Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-3

PARISH NEWS

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



(Father Phil's Article Continued:)

- Dr. Thomas Brozich He is our new Director of Faith Formation. It will be his responsibility to oversee and implement all formative programs in the faith from infancy through adulthood across our Grouping. This will house under one umbrella a number of activities previously managed by a variety of staff members. The first, and most noticeable, effort will be the start of our grade school and high school programs. Please watch your email and postal mail for information in the coming days.
- Alena Kucan She is our new Director of Communications. She is a parishioner from Ellwood City. While we have over the years gotten out the word of the faith in a number of ways by a number of people, it will be Alena's role to use all of the modern means of communication to help in evangelizing all who are open to hearing and seeing the word. It is our hope that we will be able to make the face of Christ in our parish more visible to more who yearn for His word.
- Julie Strosnider She is our new Business Manager. Her name, of course, is not unknown to most of us. Since the early days of the Grouping, she has served as the Business Manager for Holy Redeemer Parish, St. Gregory Parish, and St. Gregory School. With the retirement of Joe Burkot as Business Manager, Julie will take on the duties of Business Manager for all the workings in our entire Grouping, At the same time, we will need to do some staffing revisions to allow the volume of work to be coordinated and performed as we merge all of our operations into one.

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS Peggy Betty Korczynski Dorothy Mellon

Mary Tomayko

Eleanora Milbert Bob Polak Michael Mack Marie Voelker Elaine Hafner Tina Loomis Sharon Hunter Patricia Zivkovic Elizabeth Speicher



OUR PARISHES ST. GREGORY ST. ANNE GUILD

The St. Anne Guild meeting is on September 7, at 7:00 pm in St.

Gregory's Blue Room. Hostesses are Kathy Ligday, Polly McConahy, and Eileen Bielski. All



members and women in our parish grouping are welcome. If you have questions contact saintsyl@me.com.

COLLECTIONS

AUGUST 15

Sunday Offering

\$9,162.00

ST. FERDINAND

Please join us on Tuesday mornings as we explore, The Bible and the Virgin Mary. "This beautiful bible study unveils the mystery of Our Lady that is woven into the fabric of Sacred Scripture. Twelve visually stunning lessons convey the beauty of the doctrine and devotions surrounding Mary, bringing them to life in a powerful, new way. Based on Scott Hahn's Hail, Holy <u>*Queen*</u> and presented by dynamic speaker Matthew Leonard, this study has something for everyone. The Tuesday morning class meets at 10:00 am at St. Ferdinand Church in the Upper Room, beginning on September 7. All are welcome to join the study group. Please contact Kathy at 724.776.1357 or email at kathy@stferd.org.

HOLY REDEEMER

BINGO every Friday night, doors open at 5:00 pm and Bingo begins at 7:00 pm in the Catholic Center. Call 724-452 -7245 for details.

SPOOKTACULAR RAFFLE TICKETS

for a whopping packet of 720 scratchoff tickets (\$9,600 worth of tickets) including chances to win MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. Tickets are \$20, available at all our parish offices. Hurry- only 1,000 tickets available. Drawing on Sunday, October 31, 2021.

PARISH NEWS Mass Time Change | Adoration

RELAX & ENJOY LABOR DABA BEBERBAD

TOMORROW, LABOR DAY MASS

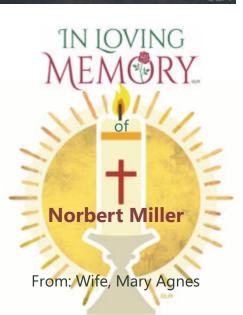
TIME on Monday, September 6, will be at 9:00 am at all The Cities of God Parishes.

HOLY HOUR OF ADORATION

Our Deacons, Jeff Ludwikowski and Don Pepe, will begin to celebrate a Holy Hour every second and fourth Thursday of each month in St. Gregory Church at 6:30 pm. September 9 will be the first Holy Hour and the Hour will close at 7:30 pm with benediction. The next Holy Hour is on September 23.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 6177

next meeting will be held at the Harmony Inn on Monday, Sept 13, at 7:00 pm. Check out our Facebook page Knights of Columbus Saint Gregory Council 6177 so that you never miss an update!



VISIT THE SHRINES OF PITTSBURGH

On Thursday, September 23, 2021. Fee: \$50.00 (Includes transportation, gratuities, and lunch) Please contact Bonnie to make your reservation and to make payment. Please RSVP by Sept. 9. <u>Phone:</u> 724.776.9177 Ext. 313 or

<u>Email:</u> bonnie@stferd.org



A SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR RELIEF AID to Haiti after

a devastating earthquake and tropical storm has taken the lives of more than 2,200 people. The collection will be taken at all Masses the weekend of September 18 & 19. Please support the Bishop's Emergency Disaster Fund which provides direct emergency aid to Haiti.

As this

summer starts to fade, and with fall approaching, we would like to have an open call for anyone interested in being a part of the Music Ministry,



Add YOUR Voice To Our CHOIR

whether that be as a cantor, choir member, or instrumentalist. We hope to add to our dedicated members of this ministry. Help us to be able to sing to the glory of God, and to fill the hearts of the congregation with the Holy Spirit. With your time and talent, I know that we can achieve this together, and at a high level. However, we do need you and your abilities to accomplish said calling. For any information regarding becoming a member of the Music Ministry, please contact Adam Blotzer at

blotzeradam@gmail.com. Remember before you can begin, whether a current participant or anyone interested in coming aboard, it is necessary all your clearances need completed in advance. I personally look forward, and am excited, to hear from all of you. Together, let us fill the hearts of God's faithful.

AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

Volunteering | Bible Studies

NEXT WEEKEND SECOND COLLECTIONS

SEPTEMBER 11 - 12 - BISHOP'S EDUCATION FUND Your generosity is greatly appreciated and can be made via your envelope packet or online at <u>https://</u> stgregzelie.weshareonline.org/ws/opportunities/ secondcollection

BIBLE STUDIES — join in at St. Ferdinand for

any or all of these. studies. Contact Kathy at 724-776-1375 for more information.

1. THE WILD GOOSE - Discovering a Deeper

Relationship with the Holy Spirit. Join Fr. Dave Pivonka, Third Order Regular, in this incredible fourteen-part video series which is awakening God's love and transforming power in the hearts of all who participate. The Tuesday evening Bible Study meets at 7:00 pm at St. Ferdinand Church in the Upper Room, beginning on September 7.

2. THE BIBLE TIMELINE - will teach you how to read and understand the entire Bible and introduce you to the wonderful narrative of Scripture in a way that will transform your life. The Thursday evening Bible Study meets at 7:00 pm at St. Ferdinand Church in the Upper Room beginning on September 9. For more information, please contact Kathy at 724-776-1357 or email at kathy@stferd.org.

3. SCRIPTURE STUDY ON ZOOM -

We look forward to Deacon Jeff Ludwikowski leading the Monday Evening Scripture Study on September 13 at 7:00 pm. To register, please send an email to julie@stferd.org with your name and preferred email address. You must register by September 8 and the Zoom link will be sent via email on Thursday, September 9. All are welcome no matter where you are in your faith journey and regardless of your previous scripture study experience.

COMFORT BLANKET MINISTRY

Started in 2002, these amazing women have made more than 13,000 blankets. These blankets are available to anyone in need of comfort or prayers and have been sent all over the world. This ministry would love to have more volunteers, especially individuals who can sew! They meet at St. Ferdinand Church on Wednesdays from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm in McAndrew Biller Hall. The first gathering this year is on September 8. Call 724.776.357 with questions.

LEARNING ABOUT MARRIAGE

ANNULMENTS Divorced Catholics and everyone else who may be interested in learning about the annulment process are welcome to attend a free workshop with Jay Conzemius, JCL, Tribunal Director and Judge. Jay will speak at four locations to present on the theology of marriage; ministry of the tribunal, marriage annulment types; and why, when and how to start the petition for the annulment process. Afterward, participants can ask questions and/or start the process. No reservation is required, but if you do plan to attend, please email <u>AnnulmentsIntake@diopitt.org</u> or call 412-456-3033 so that seating arrangements can be made. All of the presentations are from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm on the following dates and locations: Thu, Sep 9 – St. Bernadette Church, Monroeville (Lourdes Center); <u>Tue, Sep 14</u> – St. Louise de Marillac Church, Upper St. Clair (Le Gras Hall); Thu, Sep 16 -Sacred Heart Church, Shadyside (Auditorium); Tue, Sep 21 -Good Samaritan Parish, Ambridge (Jericho Hall).

ABC MOMS

All moms of newborn thru elementary age children are invited to join the ABC Mom's Group. We hold fun, faithful, and supportive meetings the first Friday morning of each



month at St. Ferdinand Church. Babysitting is provided. Please email us at <u>abcmomscranberry@gmail.com</u> for more information and to RSVP. You are welcome to join anytime throughout the year. Please bring a friend. We look forward to meeting some new moms!

IN CELEBRATION OF THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

TO LOVE AS ST. JOSEPH LOVED AN IGNATIAN DAY OF REFLECTION

In celebration of this special year, we are offering "To Love as St. Joseph Loved," a day to prayerfully reflect on how St. Joseph's courage, fidelity, and loving care of Mary and Jesus serves as an example for us all. This retreat is based on the spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola and the day will include contemplation, silent Scriptural-based prayer, and group reflection. Refreshments and lunch will be provided. Date: Saturday, September 18 Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Location: St. Ferdinand Church, Holy Family Room Cost: \$10 RSVP: By September 10

Presenter: Theresa Rossi

Registration is required RSVP to Bonnie Connell at 724.776.9177 ext. 313 or by email at bonnie@stferd.org.

www.StGregZelie.org

724-452-9731



CROSS COUNTRY

UNIFORMS for our youngest

children this year. If you have participated in Cross Country or Track in the past, would you kindly check your child's closets for uniforms that may not have been returned.

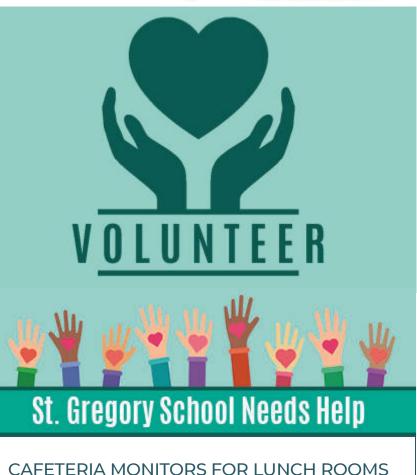


SUPER BINGO IS BACK!

After a year without bingo, we're bringing it back! This is one of the largest school fundraisers that we have and it takes a lot of help to run smoothly. Please consider signing up to help out. The first bingo of the year will be Sunday, October 3rd. Please consider signing up to help monthly! Just click the date tabs at the bottom on the spreadsheet. Use the link below to sign up:

Super Bingo Volunteers





CALL: THE SCHOOL OFFICE FOR INFORMATION

724-452-9731

THINKING ABOUT BECOMING CATHOLIC? HAVE A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER WHO IS INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC? PLEASE JOIN OUR

RCIA! *RCIA* is a process which is designed to share the Catholic Faith and prepare adults to receive the Sacraments. Through this journey there will be members of our parish praying for you, attending sessions with you, and sharing their own stories of their Catholic experience. Our team is dedicated, knowledgeable, and supportive, and we would love to walk beside you as you explore the Catholic Faith. Sessions begin in September. If you have any questions, or would like to register, the contact information is below:

If you are interested to register contact: Kay at 724.758.4411 Ext. 222, email <u>hrreledu@zoominternet.net</u> OR Sister Patricia at 724-452-7245 or email <u>parishoffice@stgregzelie.org</u>.



3-D-4-3 For ad info. call 1-800-477-4574 • www.4lpi.com