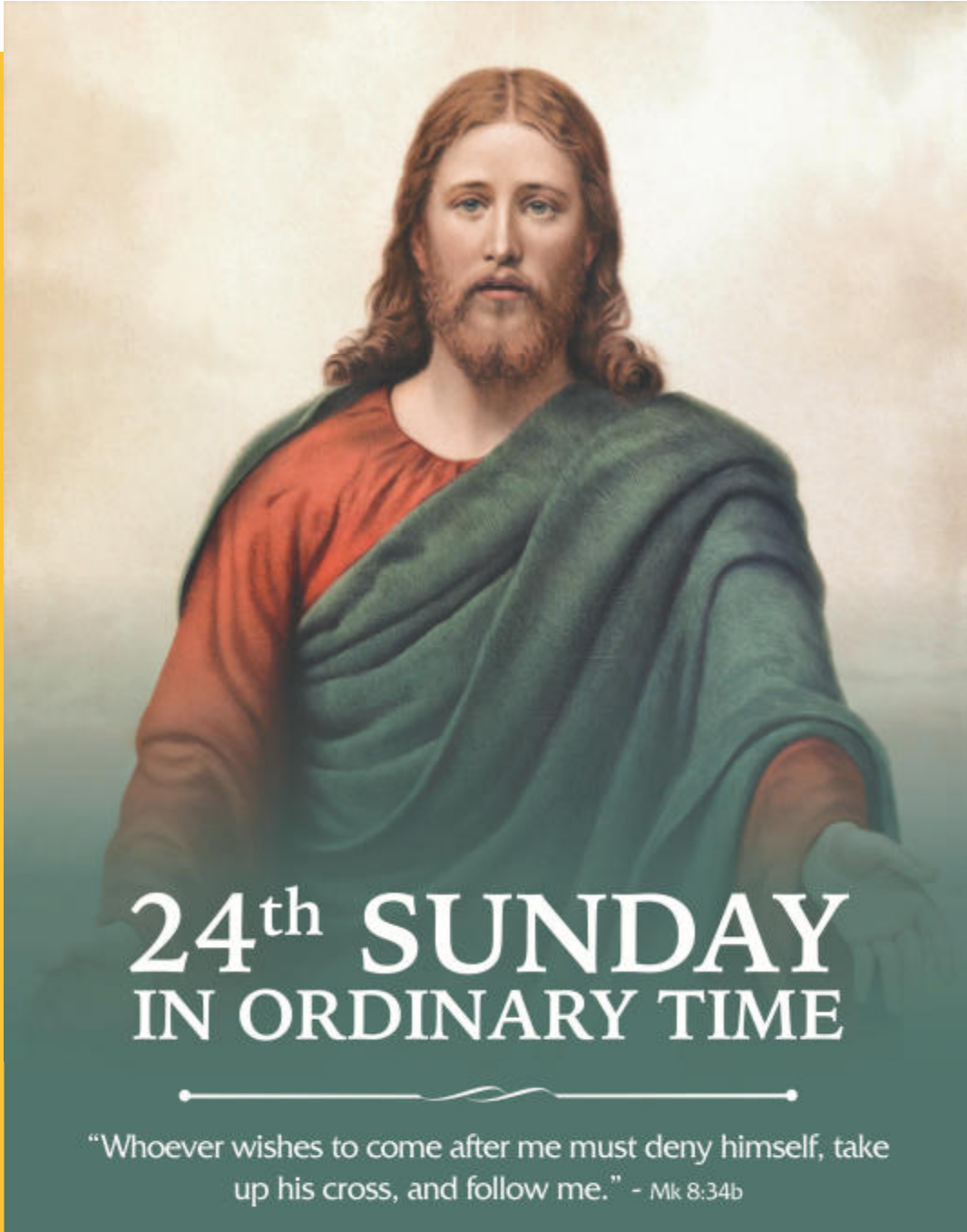


THE CITIES OF GOD

ST. GREGORY PARISH



24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.” - Mk 8:34b

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

Holy Redeemer Church

415 4th St, Ellwood City

Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am
11:00 am

Saint Gregory Church

2 West Beaver Street, Zelienople

Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm

Sunday 8:00 am
11:30 am

Saint Ferdinand Church

2535 Rochester Rd, Cranberry Twp

Saturday Vigil 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 12

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 pm | Robert J Ingenito - St. Gregory School Teacher's & Staff

8:00 am | Adella Barr - Classmates from St. Gregory School

11:30 am | Sylvester "Corky" Mashuda - Wife, Jenny

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

8:00 am | Gertrude Suorsa - Bill & Marie Ellen Knass

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

8:00 am | Rev. Aelred J. Beck, OSB - Cousin, Claire

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Our Lady of Sorrows

8:00 am | Tom & Theresa Zinkham - Mary Ann Thompson

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

8:00 am | Ron Rishack - Mary Ann Franchak

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Saint Robert Bellamine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

9:15 am | Sylvia "Sally" Lepczyk - Mark Thoma

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Blessed Virgin Mary

10:00 am | Confessions at St. Gregory Church

5:00 pm | Catherine & Albert Palley - Family

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

TWENTY-FIFTH DAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 am | Andrew Depp - The Kellner Family

11:30 am | Rose Kolling - St. Anne Guild Members



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 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

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, 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: 724-452-9731

SchoolE-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

A PROMISE MADE IS A PROMISE KEPT

One of the downsides of buying things online is that vendors generally will only sell us something if we supply them with our email address. This means that they have the ability to continually send us follow-up advertisements. Sure, we can opt out of them or may keep receiving them thinking that they might be interesting. When one of those ads pops up and we think it might be a good deal, it's very important that we read the fine print at the bottom of the page. Oftentimes, the fine print will tell us that by accepting an item on sale, we commit to a subscription or additional items for a stated period into the future. One purchase might lead to numerous purchases. Do we only want the sale item, or are we ready to make the commitment and fulfill the obligation?

This weekend in the Gospel, we hear Jesus ask His disciples who do people say that He is. Then, He asks them for their own opinion, to which Peter, in his own impetuous way, blurts out, "You are the Christ." (Mk 8:29) Jesus begins to wonder if Peter fully understands what this pronouncement means for his own life, and so Jesus tells Peter and the others that He will suffer and die because He is the Christ (the Messiah) - and will also rise after three days. Peter doesn't want Jesus to live out the implications of His role, to which Jesus tells Peter, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny

himself, take up his cross, and follow me." (Mk 8:34) Jesus tells Peter that if Peter wants to be a follower then there's a price to pay. The Letter of James reminds us that talk is cheap. If we claim to be people of faith, then we need to give evidence of it in the way we act - "So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead." (Jas 2:17) However, in living out our commitment of faith, we are not alone or unsupported. The prophet Isaiah, in the midst of his own persecutions for the faith, announces, "See, the Lord God is my help; who will prove me wrong?" (Is 50:9) The Lord is already committed to us. Are we ready to make the commitment to the Lord?

In Baptism, WE are united with Christ and His Church. As adults, it's necessary that WE don't just roll along with this commitment made often for US in OUR infancy but that WE make and maintain this commitment for OURselves. Jesus reminds US that believing in Him means taking up the cross with Him, and only then do WE rise with Him. He challenges US and stretches US to grow, develop, and evolve in the faith. Changing and merging are not easy. They mean moving beyond the familiar and the comfortable. Jesus couldn't just enjoy the happiness of the home in Nazareth or the beauty of the Resurrection. To get from the one to the other, He had to commit Himself to the Father even if that meant the Via Dolorosa and the Crucifixion. The Lord is asking US to see things with His eyes not OURS, to

commit OURselves to His promise not OUR plan. If WE are truly people of Jesus and people of His Church, then WE will walk His way with conviction and with trust in His guidance and protection. When WE make that kind of promise, then WE keep it.

God Bless The Cities of God!

PS. It is with sadness and prayerful hope that we send off one of our Senior Staff members. Kathy Bachik, the Pastoral Associate at St. Ferdinand Parish, is pursuing a new faith direction in her life and her career. Her last day with us was Friday, 10 September. As she seeks to find the Lord and share the Lord, our prayers and best wishes accompany her that she may continue to assist others in their journey of faith. She has our gratitude and support.

READINGS | WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

Sunday: Is 50:5-9a/Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [9]/Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-35

Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17 [1Cor 11:26b]/Lk 7:1-10

Tuesday: Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38 [cf. 7b]/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17

Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [2]/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

Thursday: 1 Tm 4:12-16/Ps 111:7-8, 9, 10 [2]/Lk 7:36-50

Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20/Lk 8:1-3

Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 [2]/Lk 8:4-15

Next Sunday: Wis 2:12, 17-20/Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6-8 [6b]/Jas 3:16—4:3/Mk

PARISH NEWS

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

A SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR RELIEF AID to Haiti after the devastating earthquake and tropical storm has taken the lives of more than 2,200 people.

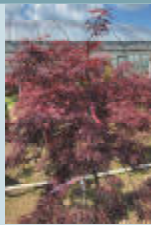
The collection will be taken at all Masses next weekend, September 18 & 19. Please support the Bishop's Emergency Disaster Fund which will provide direct emergency aid to the people of Haiti.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A DEACON?

Maybe you've seen a deacon assist at Mass or preside at a baptism or burial and wondered: What is a deacon, anyway? Or, what does it take to become a deacon? Look no further than right here for your answers: www.diopitt.org/permanent-diaconate. A new class of applicants is forming now. The deadline for nominations from a priest or deacon of the diocese is September 17, 2021. A nomination is required. For more information: deacons@diopitt.org or 412.456.3124 or diopitt.org/permanent-diaconate.

MEMORIAL TREE

The St. Gregory memorial tree has been acquired and will be delivered for fall planting in the Mary Garden. Feel free to take the dove with your loved one's name from the tree inside or bulletin board for a keepsake, if you like. A memorial plaque will be placed at the tree.



ASLEEP IN CHRIST

Please pray for the souls of: Mildred Howryla, mother of Kathy Frampton, and Elizabeth Speicher, mother of Dave Speicher and grandmother of Vicki Castelli. May the perpetual light of Christ shine upon them and may they rest in eternal peace.



ADD YOUR VOICE

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. 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. 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.

ABC MOMS



The ABC Mom's ministry is looking for babysitters for our monthly meetings at St. Ferdinand Church. We meet one Friday morning a month during the school year. This is a paid position, and clearances required by the diocese must be up-to-date. If you are interested, please contact: abcmomscranberry@gmail.com.

IN LOVING MEMORY



From: Grandchildren, Chris & Shannon

HOLY REDEEMER ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC - PARISH GROUPING WELCOME

Meat, Rolls, Beverages, and Place Settings will be supplied.

We are asking those attending with the last names starting with A thru L to bring a type of picnic salad. Those with last names starting with J thru R to bring a picnic vegetable dish, and those with last names starting with S thru Z to bring a picnic dessert.

Entertainment by "D MAJOR" - Games and Prizes TOO!

Please complete the information form below and drop it in the collection box or bring it to the parish office.

PARISH PICNIC

Name: _____

Number Attending: _____



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 hreledu@zoominternet.net OR Sister Patricia at 724-452-7245 or email parishoffice@stgregzelie.org.

THIS YEAR'S ST. FERDINAND'S WOMEN'S RETREAT

is from October 15-17, at St. Paul's Retreat Center on Pittsburgh's South Side. The theme of the retreat is "I Will Reveal to You an Abundance of Peace: Finding Peace and Serenity in Christ." If you are interested in attending, or would like additional details about the weekend, please call Kathy Zappia at 412-716-8647 or Barb Kenney at 724-709-7946. You may also call MaryAnn at the Retreat Center at 412-381-7676. This will assure your reservation for the weekend. The retreat has proven to be a spiritually refreshing time with quiet reflection, fellowship, and spiritual guidance. Please consider joining us this year!

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. The next Holy Hour is September 23 and will close with benediction at 7:30 pm.

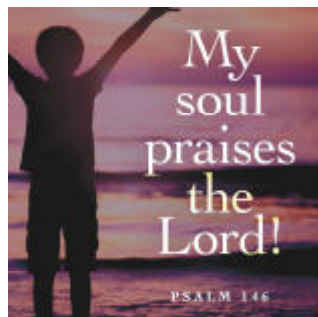
THIS WEEKEND SECOND COLLECTION IS

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

COLLECTIONS

AUGUST 29

Sunday Offering\$12,247.00



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!

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

AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

ST. FERDINAND AUTO RAFFLE

Any vehicle of your choice, up to \$45,000, available from Ron Lewis Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram, Fiat in Cranberry Twp. Plus \$3,000 cash. Tickets are \$25 each or 5 for \$100 and can be purchased at the parish office of our grouping. 2nd Prize is \$1,000 Cash and 3rd Prize is \$500 in gift cards. The drawing is November 21, 2020 at 7:00 pm in the church Narthex.



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 AnnulmentsIntake@diopitt.org 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: **Tue, Sep 14** – 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).

CATHOLIC CHARITIES



Our first-ever baby shower for moms enrolled in our parenting and pregnancy program was such a success we're doing it all over again! This time we're hosting moms in Beaver County next month. These celebrations support new and expecting moms as they work hard to give their babies the best possible start in life. Will you help us ensure that each one has the essential supplies to start well?

You can check out what we hope to give each mom by going to our Amazon wish list. You can either purchase items and have them shipped directly to us or use it as a reference. (Please note, we can only accept new items for the showers.)

[Click Here for more information.](#)

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.



We have a new date for our annual Catholic Charities Free Health Care Center Golf Classic at the beautiful Fox Chapel Golf Club – Monday, October 4. The day includes breakfast, lunch on the course and an afternoon raffle. Proceeds provide quality medical and dental care to adults 19 years and older who are uninsured or underinsured. Qualified volunteer providers at the Free Health Care Center treat routine issues and identify serious problems, creating treatment plans to foster health, but the center stays open thanks only to the generous spirit of individuals, organization and foundations. To register or purchase a golf sponsorship: Meghan Wallace, Events Manager 412-456-6950.

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](#)



CAFETERIA MONITORS FOR LUNCH ROOMS

CALL: THE SCHOOL OFFICE FOR INFORMATION
724-452-9731

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

We need to get our bearings straight and properly lay life's cornerstone. Otherwise, the rest of our journey will be skewed, and our judgment clouded. We can recall Jesus' famous rebuke of Peter, "You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." Even he, as one of Jesus' closest friends struggles with understanding things and grasping the big picture. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955) a renowned and learned French Jesuit priest often has these words attributed to him: "We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience." Whether they were actually from his lips, they certainly mimic his thought. These wise words orient us and capture the essence of who we really are.

Many people consider spirituality an option. It is no wonder that they come to this conclusion when they predominantly define themselves using human terms and concepts. Immersed in this world view, they struggle finding any semblance of God because God does not work according to human expectations! This is especially true when suffering and death enter life's picture. If we are only human beings having a spiritual experience, then we wrongly expect our spirituality to serve us as we desire. The human expectation is that my spiritual life is something that is useful in avoiding pain, hardship, and death, not something that gives the courage to live through it!

So, when we protest and get upset with God because our journey is becoming difficult, painful, treacherous, disappointing, and even pointing us toward death, Jesus rebukes us as he did Peter and gently reminds us how to see. It is God who inspires and opens hearts to see truth and beauty. In God, the true meaning of things is understood, and we receive a depth of insight and understanding that is not found following purely human paths. It is not our task to understand God, as God is beyond human understanding. Ours is the joyful privilege of simply resting in God's presence simply because God is God and we are who we are. As spiritual beings having an exciting and adventurous human experience, it is in our DNA to do so. Through prayer we can let go and let be. This is how we lose our lives but then save them.

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