

# The Cities of God



St. Ferdinand Parish  
2535 Rochester Road,  
Cranberry Township PA, 16066

Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm  
6:00 pm  
Sunday 8:00 am  
10:00 am  
12:00 pm  
5:00 pm

Holy Redeemer  
415 4th Street,  
Ellwood City PA, 16117

Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm  
Sunday 9:00 am  
11:00 am

St. Gregory Parish  
2 West Beaver Street,  
Zelienople PA, 16063

Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm  
Sunday 8:00 am  
11:00 am

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

CLP

## Welcome Everyone

...to "The Cities of God" Catholic Community. OUR three parishes share a diversity of culture and faith experience all united in the one Body of Christ. The doors of OUR churches, as well as the doors of OUR hearts, are open inviting all to join in the journey to new life in Christ within OUR Catholic tradition. OUR hope is to assist one another toward a deeper encounter with the Lord through Word, Sacrament, and Community in faith, hope, and love.

# Mass Intentions

2 | January 2, 2022

## CLERGY

**Rev. Philip Farrell, Administrator**, pfarrell@diopitt.org

**Rev. John P. Gallagher, Senior Priest**, jpgallagher@diopitt.org

**Rev. Mark L. Thomas, Senior Parochial Vicar**, mlthomas@diopitt.org

**Rev. David J. Egan, Parochial Vicar**, degan@diopitt.org

**Rev. Mr. Donald Pepe, Deacon**, dpepe@diopitt.org

**Rev. Mr. Jeffrey Ludwikowski, Deacon**, jeff@stferd.org

## PARISH STAFF

### Kay Bellissimo

Pastoral Associate

724.758.4411 Ext. 222 hrreledu@zoominternet.net

### Dr. Thomas J. Brozich, D. Min, Psy. D.

Director of Faith Formation

724.776.2888 Ext. 302 TBrozich@stferd.org

### Adam Blotzer

Music Minister

724.477.7245 blotzeradam@gmail.com

### Luma Bunni

Executive Assistant/Office Manager

724.776.2888 Ext. 105 luma@stferd.org

### Francis Fotia

Music Minister

724.752.9518 ciaofotia@yahoo.com

### Lou Ferrario

Administrator Assistant

724.758.4411 Ext. 110 laf@zoominternet.net

### Kevin Johnson

Interim Director of Worship and Music

724.776.2888 Ext. 401 KJohnson@stferd.org

### Alena Kucan

Director of Communication

724.776.2888 Ext. 107 AKucan@stferd.org

### Rev. Mr. Jeffrey Ludwikowski

Pastoral Associate

724.776.2888 ext. 303 jeff@stferd.org

### Sister Patricia Meyers, SHS

Pastoral Associate

724.452.7245 srpatty1@stgregzelie.org

### Cathy Nowak

Safe Environment Coordinator

724.776.2888 Ext. 112 cathy@stferd.org

### Chris Razani

Maintenance Supervisor

724.758.4411 Ext. 225 crazani@zoominternet.net

### Erin Rice

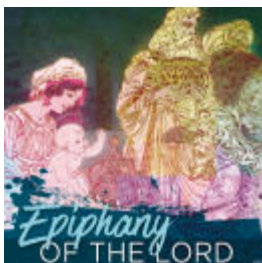
St. Gregory School Principal

724.452.9731 Ext. 105 erice@stgregzelie.org

### Julie Strosnider

Business Manager

724.776.2888 Ext. 103 jstrosnider@stgregzelie.org



## MASS INTENTIONS

### THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD; SAINTS BASIL THE GREAT AND GREGORY NAZIANZEN BISHOPS AND DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH

4:00 pm (S.F.) Warren & Schaly Families (Joanne Warren)

5:00 pm (S.G.) Norbert Miller (Norbert Miller Family)

5:00 pm (H.R.) Anthony "Dooney" Pietrcollo - Birthday (Family)

6:00 pm (S.F.) George Yurasko (Midge Chervenak)

### SUN. JAN. 2 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD; SAINTS BASIL THE GREAT AND GREGORY NAZIANZEN, BISHOPS AND DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH

8:00 am (S.G.) Bernadette Genser & Melvin Urschler (The Hernon Family)

8:00 am (S.F.) James Murray Egan (St. Ferdinand Women's Club)

9:00 am (H.R.) Carl Agostinelli (Romanio Family)

10:00 am (S.F.) Dr. John DeCaro, Sr. (Chuck & Sandee Houk)

11:00 am (H.R.) Mary Rose Vano (Don & Mary Jane Vano & Family)

11:30 am (S.G.) Gasparin, Stirling, & Jones Families (Pat Stirling)

12:00 pm (S.F.) Jon Canigian (Mom)

5:00 pm (S.F.) Gilbert Huchestein (Joanne & Jerry Osele)

### MON. JAN. 3 THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

8:00 am (S.G.) Joanne Hough (Fyda Family)

8:30 am (S.F.) Edward Bunni (Wife, Fadia)

9:00 am (H.R.) Rose Marie DeGennaro (Donor)

### TUE. JAN. 4 ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON, RELIGIOUS

8:00 am (S.G.) Dale Marburger (Mom, Teresa Marburger)

8:30 am (S.F.) Bill Foerster (Wife & Family)

9:00 am (H.R.) Father Gerry Galvin (Mary Anne Mansell)

### WED. JAN. 5 ST. JOHN NEUMANN, BISHOP

8:00 am (S.G.) Albert Hensch (Claire Dorsch and Family)

8:30 am (S.F.) Frank Bernotas, Jr. (Tony & Kathy)

9:00 am (H.R.) Francis LaGrotta - 90th Birthday (Frank)

7:00 pm (S.F.) Giacomina Della Valle (Cindy Petraglia & Family)

### THUR. JAN. 6 ST. ANDRE BESSETTE, RELIGIOUS

8:00 am (S.G.) Mildred Howryla (Family)

8:30 am (S.F.) Ken Bel Cimmuto (Cheri Madeja)

9:00 am (H.R.) Carlo Pisani (Dave & Vicky Manzo)

### FRI. JAN. 7 ST. RAYMOND OF PENYAFORT, PRIEST

8:30 am (S.F.) Ellen Shea (Barb & Harry)

9:00 am (H.R.) Catherine Balsler (Carol Byers)

9:15 am (S.G.) Karen Wolf (Teachers & Staff of St. Gregory School)

### SAT. JAN. 8

9:00 am (H.R.) Elizabeth & Bob Aaron and Helen & Bill Petti  
(Betsy & Bob Petti)

**Confessions: 10:00 am at St. Ferdinand and St. Gregory  
12:30 at Holy Redeemer**

### THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

4:00 pm (S.F.) Wagner & Benath Families (Family)

5:00 pm (S.G.) Norbert Miller (Kathy & Fritz Ligday)

5:00 pm (H.R.) Otterina Yount (Tressa Bellissimo)

6:00 pm (S.F.) Alfons Cams (Ingrid Peters)

### SUN. JAN. 9 THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

8:00 am (S.G.) Betty Speicher (John & Mary Ann Darak)

8:00 am (S.F.) Dominic Iacobucci (The Hickey Family)

9:00 am (H.R.) Frank Zayas (Mary Anne Mansell)

10:00 am (S.F.) Frank Maksin (Phyllis & Jack Wirth)

11:00 am (H.R.) Dr. John DeCaro, Sr. & Mary DeCaro (Christa Gagric)

11:30 am (S.G.) Ron Rishack (Dave & Martha Florie)

12:00 pm (S.F.) Katherine Daly (The McKerne Family)

5:00 pm (S.F.) Stanley Verona (John & Rita Verona)

**S.F.:** St. Ferdinand, **H.R.:** Holy Redeemer, **S.G.:** St. Gregory

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### THE MAGI IN OUR HEARTS

Some of the most memorable, if not the strongest, friendships are those we forge during our years of school. As we progress to each new level – from Kindergarten to grade school to high school and to college – we answer a yearning deep within ourselves, and along the way we find others with a similar desire. Our common interest and our common goal unites us and strengthens us to pursue even further, enjoying the companionship of other like-minded individuals. We spur each other on to do better and encourage each other through setbacks. As we graduate and move to the next level or to our chosen profession, we may leave behind these fellow travelers, but not the lessons learned or the ties of the heart. Our time together forever shapes our lives and our context, and if our paths do cross, we readily pick up where we left off, even though years and geography may separate us. Our common pursuit is a perpetual bond.

This weekend, Luke tells us the story of the Magi. The Gospel itself shares very few details concerning them, and so popular tradition fills in the rest. Were they kings, were they wise men, were they astrologers? Since they were intrigued by the appearance of a star, they may have been the latter, but our Reading from the Prophet Isaiah and the Responsorial Psalm speak of the arrival of kings. How many were they? Since they brought three categories of gifts – gold, frankincense, and myrrh – we generally ascribe their number to be three. While the Gospel says they came “from the east” (Lk 2:1) and following their visit to the child Jesus “they departed for their country”, our first two Readings and the Responsorial Psalm all speak of multiple nations coming to believe and worship the Lord. We have even traditionally identified them as belonging to different ages, races, and ethnicities and given them specific names – Caspar (or Gaspar), Melchior, and Balthasar. Nonetheless, despite the lack of details, we know that different individuals were drawn together in their pursuit of “the newborn king of the Jews” (Lk 2:2). This yearning formed them as one in our collective memory as together they sought the Lord and even thwarted earthly pride and violence in the process. One can only imagine that this pilgrimage sealed their unity and inspired them to share this Good News with others.

Their story is OUR story as well. Each of OUR three parishes is drawn ever more deeply into the life and love of Jesus Christ. Along the way, WE encounter each other



REV. PHILIP N. FARRELL

as fellow journeyers. WE may each be from different communities having differing lifestyles and stewarding different resources, but these are the different gifts that WE bring to God as WE offer them to each other. Travelling along the way, WE grow in understanding OURselves and each other as WE recognize that OUR real mission is to encourage and support each other in the joys and sorrows of knowing the Lord and living the faith in a world that is often adverse to the Truth. It is this passage together in the pursuit of Christ that makes us who WE are meant to be as WE take this newfound revelation and experience back to the communities from which WE originated. At heart, WE are the Magi in faith, hope, and love seeking the Lord, growing together in the Lord, and sharing the Lord in OUR community with one another.

God Bless The Cities of God!



**As we plan ahead for the merger of our three parishes in July of this year, there obviously comes with it some unfinished business at the present time. In order to avoid confusion or mistakes over the scheduling of Masses and Mass intentions, we will delay opening the 2023 Mass book until we have a clearer picture and plan for moving forward in this area. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience to your scheduling this might cause. Thank you.**

# Prayers and Worship

4 | January 2, 2022

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

### SUNDAY READINGS

#### First Reading:

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1)

#### Psalm:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)

#### Second Reading:

It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. (Eph 3:5-6)

#### Gospel:

“Where is the newborn king of the Jews?

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” (Mt 2:2)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. ©LPI

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 2, 2022

#### Sunday:

Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf.11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

#### Monday:

1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

#### Tuesday:

1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44

#### Wednesday:

1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52

#### Thursday:

1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a

#### Friday:

1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16

#### Saturday:

1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30

#### Next Sunday:

Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOULS AND FAMILIES OF:

**Ernest Feitl**, father of Cindy Olshavsky, **Russell Rycheck**, husband of Joan Rycheck, **Lillian Sullivan**, and **Dennis Smith**, husband of Mary Smith. May the souls of our deceased parish members and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, continue their journey to eternal life in the heavenly kingdom. Amen

## SANCTUARY CANDLE

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week in loving memory of

**St. Ferdinand:**

**Health of Chris Bozich**

from Denise Schaffer

**St. Gregory:**

**Ron D'Alessandro**

from Wife



## PRAYER GARDEN CANDLES

A prayer Garden Candle will burn this week in loving memory of:

**St. Ferdinand:**

**Lynda Stevens**

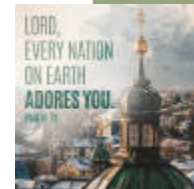
from The Stevens Family

**Giacomina Della Valle**

from Cindy Petraglia & Family

**Barbara Leas**

Bob & Cathy Connolly



## SANCTUARY FLOWERS

**St. Gregory:**

**Christmas Donation**

from Parishioners



## SACRAMENTS

**Confession/Reconciliation:** Saturdays at 10:00 am at St. Ferdinand and St. Gregory and Saturday at 12:30 at Holy Redeemer.

**Anointing:** Contact the Parish Office before entering the hospital for a scheduled surgery or an illness, or contact the Pastoral Care Department of the Hospital.

**Marriage:** Please call six months in advance for an appointment with a priest. Marriage preparation classes are required. Call the Parish Office as soon as possible to schedule.

**Baptism for Adults:** Through Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

**Baptism for Infants:** By appointment. Please call the Parish Office at least two months in advance. A Baptism class is required for parents. Please call the Parish Office to register.

Victims of Sexual Abuse Hotline 1.888.808.1235  
Diocesan Victim Assistance Office 412.456.3093  
PA Childline 1.800.932.0313

# Prayer and Parish Office Information

January 2, 2022 | 5

**PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS FROM  
HOLY REDEEMER AND ST. GREGORY**

Carlo Agostinelli	Steve Grinnen	Charlotte Miller	Greg Santo	Peggy
Sarah Arbaelaz	John/Mary Guerrini	Jodi Minter	Diane Scott	Betty Korczynski
B.J. Biondi	Helen Guy	Dara Morris	Catherine Shuttleworth	Dorothy Mellon
George Bokor	Jim Hackett,	Roberta Morris	James Spielvogel	Mary Tomayko
Norma Borroni	James M. Hackett	Ann 'Tootsie' Muoio	Sr. Patricia Dunham	Eleanora Milbert
Cathy Bucci	Isaac Hall	Olga Nardone	Paul Stefura	Bob Polak
Vance Byram	Nancy Hinzman	Bob Nauman	Judy Stiteler	Michael Mack
Kristi Campbell	Sandy Huffman	Jim Norton,	Rita Stoops	Andy Szakelyhidi
Helen Colosimo	Beth Jansen	Bill Oehmler Sr.	Connie Tetmire	Ed Smith
Frederick Conley	Kathie Joiner	Christine Osche,	Doreen Tomon	Marie Voelker
Mary Jo Conley	John Kati	Antoinette Pansera	Kenneth Ung	Elaine Hafner
Sally Costanza	Frank LaGrotta	Regina Pasini	Carol Viccari	Sharon Hunter
John DiLeonardo	Paula Maochi Laird	Bruce & Janet Patrick	Dom Viccari	Patricia Zivkovic
Shirley Dominelli	Jared Longwell	Audrey Patterson	Lisa Marie Vincik	Stacey & David
Darlene Esoldo	Antonietta Lightner	Debbie Piper	Nikki Usenick	Mary Pat O'Neal
Donna Evans	Ray Lutz	Kathleen Russo	Karen Williams	Krissy White
Gus Fornataro	Chris MacDonald	Cy Saba	Kenneth Wiley	Smail Family
Michael Garrett	Arlene Maielli	Larry Sano, Sr.	Chuck Ziegler	
Mark Greene	Mary McClurg	Julie Santillo		



Call:  
St. Ferdinand- 724.776.2888  
Holy Redeemer - 724.758.4411  
St. Gregory- 724.452.7245  
to add or delete a name.  
**Only family members are to call!**

## PARISH OFFICE

### ST. FERDINAND

#### Administration Office

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

724.776.2888 Fax: 724.776.2378

#### Faith Formation Office

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

And during Faith Formation Classes

724.776.9177 Fax: 724.776.6640

#### Counseling by Appointment

Catholic Center 724.775.0758 ext. 4052

Parish Office 724.776.2888

#### Music Ministry

724.776.2888 ext. 401

#### Directory

General email - parish@stferd.org

Pastoral Council - pastoralcouncil@stferd.org

Safe Environment - cathy@stferd.org

Small Faith Communities 724.776.1357

Website - www.stferd.org

Youth Ministry Office - 724.776.1920

### HOLY REDEEMER

#### Administration Office

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Closed for Lunch 12:30pm - 1:00 pm

724.758.4411 Fax: 724.752.1466

#### Faith Formation & RCIA

724.752.1271

#### Social Services

724.758.3465

#### Music Ministry

724.752.9518

#### Catholic Parish Cemetery Association

724.323.0033

### ST. GREGORY

#### Administration Office

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Closed for Lunch 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm

724.452.7245 Fax: 724.452.4064 parishoffice@stgregzelie.org

#### Ritzert Hall Rental (temporarily suspended)

724.452.7245

#### Directory

St. Gregory School - 724.452.9731 schooloffice@stgregzelie.org

School Website - www.stgregzelie.org

Church Website - www.stgregparish.org

#### Bulletin: AKucan@stferd.org

**The bulletin deadline for submitting articles is ten days before the bulletin date (except for Holidays). All articles must be written in paragraph form and include a name and phone number. Pdf articles are not accepted for print in the bulletin. For complete article submission guidelines, please visit our website at <https://stferd.org/>**

## BAPTISM CLASSES

One parent preparation session is required before baptism. Please come before the baby is born.

\* Classes at Holy Redeemer are on January 12, 2022, April 6, 2022, July 13, 2022, and October 12, 2022 from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm at the Holy Redeemer Catholic Center.

Pre-registration is required by calling 724.758.4411

\* Classes at St. Ferdinand and St. Gregory are on February 7, 2022, April 4, 2022, and June 6, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Pre-registration is required by calling 724.776.2888 ext. 101

# Schedules

6 | January 2, 2022

## READERS

### ST. FERDINAND

#### January 1/2, 2022

- 4:00 pm - Joe Renaud
- 6:00 pm - Mark Hahn
- 8:00 am - Art Riccadonna
- 10:00 am - Lois Bradley
- 12:00 pm - Michael Garczynski
- 5:00 pm - Daria Kubisiak

#### January 8/9, 2022

- 4:00 pm - Julie Klimaszewski
- 6:00 pm - Brian Connel
- 8:00 am - Daria Kubisiak
- 10:00 am - Michael Garczynski
- 12:00 pm - Kathleen Flango
- 5:00 pm - Bill Yates

### HOLY REDEEMER

#### January 1/2, 2022

- 5:00 pm - Stacey Cunningham
- 9:00 am - Mary Anne Mansell
- 11:00 am - Licia Lentz

#### January 8/9, 2022

- 5:00 pm - Virginia Ottaviani
- 9:00 am - Debbie Kucan
- 11:00 am - Jennifer Bowser

### ST. GREGORY

#### January 1/2, 2022

- 5:00 pm - Mark Kline
- 8:00 am - Lorie Voland
- 11:30 am - Christina Weigand

#### January 8/9, 2022

- 5:00 pm - Mike Kamnikar
- 8:00 am - Chuck Schaun
- 11:30 am - Andy Wagner



## EXTRAODINARY MINISTERS

### ST. FERDINAND

#### January 1/2, 2022

- 4:00 pm - Vera Belfiore, Annette Williams, Kevin Monahan, Mike Lynch
- 6:00 pm - Debbie Gallagher, Amy Hahn, Julie Heidish, Eileen Newara
- 8:00 am - Carol Bartley, Carol Sinicki, Anthony Bartley, Karen DeCesaris
- 10:00 am - Paul Kurtanich, Nancy Miller, Barbara Moeller, Camille Kurtanich
- 12:00 pm - Judy Sapos, Laura Asseff, Melinda Terbosic, John Milius
- 5:00 pm - Joan Spirk, Cynthia Olshavsky, Kathleen Kozmin, Heide Resch

#### January 8/9, 2022

- 4:00 pm - Vera Belfiore, Betsy Diana, Mike Lynch, Betty DeCicco
- 6:00 pm - Barbara Margo, Patricia Mann, Anita Stright, Michele Vetovich
- 8:00 am - Rich Watson, Norma Wolff, Beverly Quinn-Huston, Peggy Watson
- 10:00 am - Patty Besonson, Phyllis Wirth, James Shipley, Fred Galovich
- 12:00 pm - Mark DeNapoli, Sally Jack, Barbara Moeller, Daniel Flynn
- 5:00 pm - Cynthia Olshavsky, Joan Spirk, Tom Way, Pat Way

### HOLY REDEEMER (\* GOES TO TABERNACLE)

#### January 1/2, 2022

- 5:00 pm - \*Guy Calabro, Lou Ferrario, Holly Angelucci
- 9:00 am - \*Barb Russo, Mimi Spade, Dorothy Schilling
- 11:00 am - \*Francine Hunter, Rosina Betz, Paula Keane

#### January 8/9, 2022

- 5:00 pm - \*Vickie Koach, Patti Kuhn, Betsy Petti
- 9:00 am - \*Mark Strosnider, Julie Strosnider, Jan Zayas
- 11:00 am - \*Kathy Gorzkowski, Loretta Silvestri, Mary Ann Viccari

### ST. GREGORY

#### January 1/2, 2022

- 5:00 pm - Dave Dailey, Drew Mathew, Teresa O'Malley
- 8:00 am - Mary Ann Brill, Don Koger, Matt Sauers
- 11:30 am - Mary Barry, Cathy Shantz, Jim Shantz

#### January 8/9, 2022

- 5:00 pm - Dave Dailey, Drew Mathew, Teresa O'Malley
- 8:00 am - Mary Ann Brill, Don Koger, Matt Sauers
- 11:30 am - Mary Barry, Cathy Shantz, Jim Shantz



## ALTAR SERVERS

**Altar Server Schedule Coming Soon**  
(St. Ferdinand is already Scheduled in the app)



## FAITH FORMATION

### ST. FERDINAND:

No classes scheduled on January 2, 2022. Have a Happy New Year! Sessions resume the week of January 9, 2022.

First Reconciliation Parent Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 6:30 pm in McAndrew-Biller Hall. If you have any questions, give Dr. Thom a call at 724.776.9177, ext. 302. or email him at TBrozich@stferd.org.

### ST. GREGORY:

No classes on Sunday, January 2, 2022. Have a Happy New Year! Sessions resume on Sunday, January 9, 2022 at 9:30 am. First Reconciliation Parent Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the church. If you have any questions, give Dr. Thom a call at 724.776.9177, ext. 302. or email him at TBrozich@stferd.org.

### HOLY REDEEMER:

Holy Redeemer Elementary Faith Formation for January: Sessions will be held January 10, 24, 31, 2022 from 4:45pm to 6:00 pm. NO sessions on January 3 or 17, 2022. If you have questions please contact Kay at 724.758.4411, ext. 222 or hrreledu@zoominternet.net.

## ADORATION

Please join us on the second and fourth Thursday of every month at St. Gregory Church to worship our Lord in the Eucharist. Holy Hour begins promptly at 6:30 pm, and Benediction will conclude by 7:30 pm. Come spend some time in silent fellowship with Jesus, really present in the Eucharist. All are welcome for all or any part of the Holy Hour. We look forward to seeing you, but more importantly, so does our Lord. We will next be gathering for this beautiful time of adoration and prayer on Thursday, January 13, 2022.  
CORPUS SANGUIS ANIMA et DIVINITAS



## MARCH FOR LIFE

All parishioners are invited; Friday, January 21, 2022 from 6:00 am - 11:30 pm for March for Life. Pilgrims will meet for a 6:00 am Mass at St. Ferdinand Church followed by a 6:45 am departure to Washington DC and returning at approximately 11:30 pm. \$30 per person, \$15 per additional family member or \$20 per student. Price includes metro ticket. For more information please call Bill Slusser at 724.772.7961 or go to our website for the form on our homepage in Grouping News.

## COME PRAY WITH US -- FROM HOME! LOOKING FOR A GREAT WAY TO KICK OFF YOUR DAY?

Is it often too tough to be up and about before that first cup-O-Joe? Well, bring your steeping hot mug and come join us from the comfort of your home - on ZOOM - for morning prayers, as we come together for the rosary, daily petitions, the daily Mass readings and a brief reflection. This regional on-line prayer group started to meet at the beginning of the COVID shut down back in March of 2020 with a group of faithful Catholics, including Deacon Jeff, in response to the need for a spiritual experience in those isolating days, but now continues to welcome participants from many neighboring North suburb parishes as well as friends and family members from all over the country. We start each morning promptly at 7:00 am, and finish by about 7:40 am. Feel like you might want to join but don't want to have to get all gussied up that early in the morning? No problem, leave your video feed off!

- we won't mind. If you are interested in joining this group, or even just checking it out, email Deacon Jeff at Jeff@stferd.org and he will send you the zoom link.

## HOLY REDEEMER HOLY NAME SOCIETY

All Men from St. Gregory, Holy Redeemer and St. Ferdinand are invited to join the Holy Redeemer Holy Name Society on Sunday, January 9, 2022 for the 9:00 am mass at Holy Redeemer. We will recite the Rosary at 8:30 am followed by Mass. Following Mass we will go to the lunchroom in the Catholic Center for a light breakfast and meeting. We hope you will be able to join, so as brothers we may pray together.

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON LUNCH BUNCH

If you are looking for fellowship and conversation, please join our "Lunch Bunch" on Thursdays at 12:30pm. We will be meeting in the Upper Room at St. Ferdinand. Please bring your lunch with you. Questions? Please contact Vera at 724.513.9099. Looking forward to seeing you then!

## ST. PATRICK'S POT OF GOLD

Holy Redeemer's Holy Name Society's St. Patrick's Pot of Gold tickets are available for \$5.00 at Holy Redeemer Church Office. Prizes are \$500 on March 15 and 16 and \$1500 on March 17 based on the 3 digit Lottery number. Call the church office at 724.758.4411 Ext. 110 if you have any questions. Good Luck!

## 2022 HOLY REDEEMER SPECIAL ACTIVITIES GROUP (SAG) \$UPER \$PECIAL

Tickets have arrived and are available from any member or the parish office. These \$120 tickets pay \$135 Sunday thru Friday and \$500, \$750 or \$1000 on Saturdays, based on the 3 digit PA lottery evening number, from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. If there is a special number you wish, call the parish office at 724.758.4411. Good Luck!

## APPALACHIA

WE'RE BAAAACK!!! The Appalachia group is more than excited to get back to the grindstone, or meat slicer, to prepare for our return to Preston County, WVA in June of 2022. To do so, we will be conducting the first of two hoagie sales the weekend of January 8 and 9. Due to rising costs of all products, our 12 inch Italian hoagies on fresh Breadworks buns will now be sold for \$7.00 each. Hoagies will be sold at all three churches until all 440 are gone. If you would like to participate in this ministry or have any questions regarding it, please contact Mindy at [mdpasquale5@gmail.com](mailto:mdpasquale5@gmail.com).

## LIVING ROSARY AT ST. FERDINAND CHURCH ON MONDAY, JANUARY 10

The Knights of Columbus Council 11838 invites all parishioners to join them in the recitation of the holy Rosary on Monday evening, January 10 at 7pm at St. Ferdinand Church. A 75' rosary will be spread down the main aisle of the church and everyone will be asked to hold a bead and help recite the Rosary. Prayer handouts will be available for those who wish them. What a wonderful way to start the New Year, especially for families.



## VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE

The St. Ferdinand Women's Club is hosting a Valentine's Dance on Saturday, February 12 in Oldenski Hall. The cost is \$75.00 per couple (or \$37.00 for a single). This will include an hour of appetizers, dinner, dessert, beer and wine. It is a BYOB and we will supply the set ups. We will also enjoy the music of a band this year. Doors open at 7:00 pm. Please call Peggy at 724.816.4109 or email [peggyw919@gmail.com](mailto:peggyw919@gmail.com) to make your reservations.

## LIVING THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT: WISDOM, UNDERSTANDING, COUNSEL, FORTITUDE, KNOWLEDGE, PIETY, FEAR OF THE LORD

Monday Evenings of Scripture-based Prayer  
Based on the Spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola  
In this 5th session, a guided meditation will help you tap into your personal experience of each Gift. We ask the Spirit for an understanding of the Gifts that we may use them better for her greater service.

Monday January 17, 2022 from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm.  
Free but registration is required. Please register by Wednesday, January 12, 2022 so you can receive the Zoom link. To register send an email to [Theresa.Rossi@yahoo.com](mailto:Theresa.Rossi@yahoo.com) with your preferred email.

Presenter will be Theresa Rossi, Graduate, Spiritual Direction & Spiritual Leadership Program  
Pneuma Institute, Pittsburgh, PA  
If you have questions call Theresa at 724.316.5575.

## HOLY REDEEMER SOCIAL CLUB 2022 YEARLY CALENDAR TICKET

The 2022 Social Club Yearly Calendar ticket is now available at the Holy Redeemer Parish Office or from any Social Club member. The \$40 ticket is based on the 3 digit evening Pa. lottery number. Weekday prizes are \$40 and weekend prizes are \$60, except on holidays and Feast days, where prizes range from \$100 to a maximum of \$500. If there is certain number you wish, please call Lou at the parish office, 724.758.4411 Ext. 110 or Stretch at 724.752.3751. These make great Christmas gifts, stocking stuffers, remembering someone's birthday, a special thanks, etc., that lasts all year long. All proceeds help assist our parish.

## WELCOME!

Congratulations!!  
Daniel Pennell was fully received into the church on Saturday, December 19 at St. Gregory Church. He received all the Sacraments of Initiation. Daniel is going to be a great addition to our church community with his great spirit of joy and desire to serve our Lord. He has already joined the Knights of Columbus.

Welcome to the church Daniel!





# LETTER FROM DEACON JEFF

January 2, 2022 | 9

## A Brief (sort of) message from the (relatively) new kid on the block, Deacon Jeff

My assignment to The Cities of God Grouping became effective a bit over 6 months ago, and I wanted to take a minute to reflect on some observations and experiences I have had over this short time with all of you. Firstly, I want to say THANK YOU ALL for the universally warm welcome I have received at all three of our parish sites. Your faithfulness and Christian charity have been quite overwhelming. I recognize that this is especially true given that my arrival wasn't during one of the easiest times in the lives of our parishes. COVID was (and still is) raging, and we were (and still are) in the midst of our parish merger. Neither of these situations make the continuing practice of our faith any easier, and I can tell you that is as true for us clergy as it is for all of you.

As for the merger, having just come from a new parish that recently completed the merger process, I fully understand how painful and difficult this process can be. Those churches, although geographically and demographically similar, had vastly different worship styles and spiritualities. Nonetheless, 6 months after that process was complete, I was pleased to see how well things had turned out. In our grouping, I have generally been impressed with how well most of our parishioners are adapting, but I also recognize that the changes necessitated by this process are difficult and will take time. Nonetheless all mergers require change, and these changes do require sacrifice and are inevitable.

Change is never easy, change in clergy, Mass times, ministries, staff alignments, and even change in who is sitting in the pew next to us at Mass. Some people have chosen another parish altogether because they find the change associated with the merger to be too painful, and that's Okay. I don't know of anyone who finds the merger process to be fun or enjoyable. It's hard for the parishioners, it's hard for the staff, and it is especially hard for the clergy, even though we recognize the essential nature of completing this process. We have not sought this change, it was not our choice, and we take no pleasure from the changes necessitated by the merger process. However, we recognize the realities that there are far fewer Catholics in our diocese than there were even just 10 years ago, that there are far fewer resources available to our parishes than there were just even 10 years ago, and most importantly, there are far fewer priests to serve our churches than there were just 10 years ago, and that number continues to decline. Unfortunately, unlike COVID, there is no treatment for these realities and there is no vaccine to prevent them from continuing into the future.

However, also unlike COVID, we can control how we react to the pain and hardship caused by these changes. We can choose to react either positively or negatively: So, it is ultimately up to us whether we:

1. Accept the change, which is inevitable and necessary, and
2. Embrace it and effectuate the change;

OR

1. Defiantly reject and work to oppose the merger process and
2. Possibly find ourselves outside the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of God. What a horrible shame that would be for those poor souls.

I have observed, and you all need to know, that **some** people have chosen to take the negative path. Some of the letters and emails related to the merger that our clergy and staff regularly receive are cruel, unfounded, personally insulting and frankly uncatholic. I don't want to dwell on the negative, but I strongly believe I need to address a few matters in this regard.

**1. Dealing in and spreading "rumors".** Many of the uncharitable correspondence we receive includes statements that "we have heard". By definition, that is gossip. The Catechism expressly condemns gossip as a sin. An excellent article on this point can be found at: <https://aleteia.org/2015/01/16/the-sin-of-gossip/> For example, recent letters have included the following frankly silly claims people have "heard":

- a. The bishop is trying to drive people out of the church so he can sell the church properties to pay off lawsuits (he's not).
- b. When we say we have no "present intention" to close any churches, that is code that we actually have an intention to close a church in the future (we don't); and
- c. It is the clergy team's idea to do the merger, and it is not necessary (no, it's not our idea and yes, it is necessary).

These kinds of accusations are quite honestly "tin foil hat" stuff folks. Please don't take these kinds of statements seriously and for goodness sakes, please don't spread them.

**2. Attacks on a person's reputation.** Calling someone evil or attaching evil motive to their action is a direct attack on that person's reputation. Calumny and Detraction are serious sins. Calumny is making a claim not known to be true about someone, almost always with malicious intent—to damage their reputation. Detraction, on the other hand, is the telling of the truth about someone to a third party, regardless of intent, which damages the person's reputation. Please think twice before engaging in this kind of talk.

**3. Anonymous Letters.** Please know that we are interested in everyone's perspective, but we will not read any anonymous correspondence. Simply venting in an unsigned letter is not productive, nor is our reading of it.

**4. Responding to legitimate concerns.** God Bless our Priests, but frankly they simply have far too much on their plates to respond to each and every letter and email we receive regarding the merger. HOWEVER, we do want to make sure that everyone is well informed of merger matters. Accordingly, there will be future assemblies scheduled before the merger to which all parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend. Additionally, I (Deacon Jeff) have volunteered to try my best to respond to individual correspondence on all legitimate merger questions. Please feel free to contact us either at [thecitiesofgod.org](http://thecitiesofgod.org) or by letter to the St. Ferdinand parish center.

The very word "catholic" means "universal" and as Catholics we all belong to the same universal church, whether we attend Mass at Holy Redeemer, St. Ferdinand, or St. Gregory. We are all blessed to be able to continue to regularly receive Jesus in the Eucharist, to worship, to pray, and to grow spiritually, even if not on the same campus, at the same times which we are used to, even if not with the same priests we are used to, even if not in the worship style we are used to. If we hope to continue to do so, we all need to think about "church", and our relation to it, in a "universal" way.

I love being assigned to this grouping, working with the clergy team, the staff, and the parishioners here, and I would just like to exhort us all to work through the pain associated with change, and to accept, embrace and effectuate these necessary changes. There was a prayer I saw recently that I want to share.

**Be with us in our work of building the earthly city, – that in building we may not labor in vain. Look kindly on your children, Lord.**

Be part of the change God wants of us. Help us build the church that God wants us to be.

May God Bless all the parishioners of The Cities of God.

Your Brother in Christ  
Deacon Jeff

Our students were so happy to have a Christmas program again this year. Even with masks on they sounded wonderful and put everyone in the spirit of the season. Thanks to Mrs. Garcia for all her hard work preparing the kids.



**LAST CALL**

**to get your PA Lottery Scratch-Off Raffle Tickets**

The winning ticket will be drawn this **Monday, January 3 at 5:00 pm.**

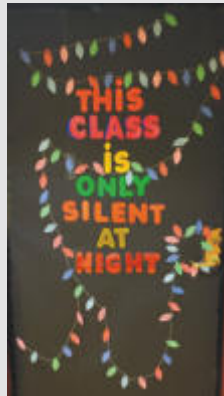
**Due to the holiday break at school you will need to purchase your ticket at <http://e.givesmart.com/events/ohU>**

Each ticket cost is \$10 and the winner receives 360 PA Scratch-off Lottery Tickets plus \$100 cash! Only 1,000 tickets were printed.

The winning ticket will be drawn Monday, January 3rd at 5:00 and will be live-streamed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/983029428864344>

*All of Us  
at  
St. Gregory School  
Want to Wish  
All of You a  
Happy and Healthy  
New Year.  
May God Bless you  
and  
Your Family with  
Happiness and Peace.*

**We wanted to share Kindergarten's Door Decoration for Christmas**



Flat Stanley's travels continue as "she" headed east to Lewisburg, PA. Miss Flat Stanley enjoyed her trip to this beautiful town that sits between the Susquehanna River and Bucknell University.



She visited Emmalynn's cousins Elyse and Norah while she was there. They stopped by the Sweetfrog Parlor where they all ate a lot of frozen yogurt. There was some concern that she might have eaten a little too much but Miss Stanley was fine and would love to go back.



Logan's Flat Stanley flew all the way to Ocala, Florida to visit Aunt Dottie and Uncle Len. His first stop was to a thoroughbred horse farm that trains race horses. He learned a lot about different breeds and boy, were they beautiful. Uncle Len took him along to work at a window factory and that was very interesting. He even punched in at the time clock. Then it was off to Aunt Dottie's 2nd grade classroom where she teaches reading and he made lots of friends. They were learning about pilgrims that day. The Sunshine State was a wonderful place to visit but he sure wanted to see an alligator. Maybe next time.

## ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON | JANUARY 4

The patron saint of Catholic schools, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (August 28, 1774 – January 4, 1821) was born in New York City to a prominent family of the Episcopal faith. When she turned 19, she married a wealthy businessman with whom she had five children. He later died of tuberculosis in 1803, leaving her a young widow. After discovering the Catholic faith in Italy, where her husband had died, she returned to New York and converted to Catholicism in 1805.

After several years struggling as a single mother, Elizabeth moved in 1809 to Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, the first community for religious women established in the United States. She also began St. Joseph's Academy and Free School, which started a chain reaction of Catholic-based education in the United States that continues today.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was canonized September 14, 1975 in St. Peter's Square by Pope Paul VI and was the first citizen born in the United States to be given the title of "saint."

©LPi



## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

### The Light of the Moon

If you own a television that has been turned on at any point in the last month or so, chances are you've caught at least a scene or two of the 1946 classic film "It's a Wonderful Life."

If you're not familiar with the movie, it follows the life of George Bailey from childhood through adulthood. A dreamer by nature, George has big plans for himself that involve world exploration and adventure — but family and community obligations keep him tethered to the same spot on the map, leading an altogether ordinary life.

One of the most memorable scenes from that movie is of George dancing with his sweetheart Mary while they sing "Buffalo Gals — Won't you come out tonight/And dance by the light of the moon?"

That lyric always catches my ear. Of course, the moon doesn't have any light of its own. All the moon has is the ability to reflect the light that shines upon it.

The same holds for us, doesn't it? Our stewardship is purely a reflection of the grace granted to us by another. "Upon you the LORD shines," writes Isaiah, "and over you appears his glory." Every good action we will ever take begins in the mind of God. The fact that we have the honor of carrying it out on His behalf is a beautiful gift. It is God that makes our ordinary lives extraordinary.

In the end of the movie, George Bailey realizes that he had a far greater life because, instead of being the hero of his own story, he allowed himself to reflect goodness onto others.

Remember — the magi didn't chart their own course. They merely followed the star.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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EPIPHANY



# Gospel Meditation and Children Page

12 | January 2, 2022

## GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

January 2, 2022

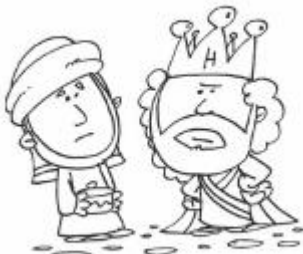
### The Epiphany of the Lord

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: “Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.” Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, “Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God’s love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being.”

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

©LPi



**GOSPEL**

The Three Wise Men told Herod about a King being born. Herod was jealous. He did not want another king to be more powerful than he. Herod told them to come back and tell him where the baby was. They thought Herod was truly interested in Jesus. After they gave him their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, an angel warned them, “Go back a different way. Herod wants to kill the baby Jesus.”

**PRAYER**

Lord, give me the power to help others, not harm them.

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Epiphany of the Lord • Matthew 2:1-12

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