

# The Cities of God



## 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday

I N O R D I N A R Y T I M E

"Blessed are you when people hate you,  
and when they exclude and insult you,  
and denounce your name as evil  
on account of the Son of Man." - Lk 6:22

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

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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 Parish  
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

11:30 am

## 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 | February 13, 2022

## CLERGY

**Rev. Philip N. 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**,

jludwikowski@diopitt.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

412.477.0427 blotzeradam@gmail.com

### Luma Bunni

Executive Assistant/Office Manager

724.776.2888 Ext. 105 luma@stferd.org

### Frances Fotia

Music Minister

724.752.9518 ciaofofia@yahoo.com

### Lou Ferrario

Administrative 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

### Christine Kunz

Safe Environment Coordinator

724.452.7245 Ext. 109 ckunzsafeenvironment@gmail.com

### Rev. Mr. Jeffrey Ludwikowski

Pastoral Associate

724.776.2888 ext. 303 jeff@stferd.org

### Sister Patricia Myers, SHS

Pastoral Associate

724.452.7245 srpatty1@stgregzelie.org

### Chris Razani

Maintenance Supervisor

724.758.4411 Ext. 225 crazani@zoominternet.net

### Erin Rice

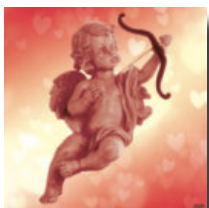
St. Gregory School Principal

724.452.9731 Ext. 105 erice@stgregzelie.org

### Julie Strosnider

Business Manager

724.776.2888 Ext. 103 jstrosnider@stgregzelie.org



## MASS INTENTIONS

### SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME; WOLRD MARRIAGE DAY

**4:00 pm (S.F.)** Mary Ellen Roth (Bill, Barb, Caroline & Chris)

**5:00 pm (S.G.)** Tom Connelly (Kathy Blattenberger)

**5:00 pm (H.R.)** William P. Skvaria (Virginia, Anita, & Deanne Ottobre)

**6:00 pm (S.F.)** Paul Omasits (Norma Gannon)

### SUN. FEB. 13 SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME; WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

**8:00 am (S.G.)** Edward Goodwin (Rita West)

**8:00 am (S.F.)** Jean DeCarlo (Herbert Family)

**9:00 am (H.R.)** Souls in Purgatory (Donor)

**10:00 am (S.F.)** Joseph & Cecelia Wirth (Phyllis & Jack Wirth)

**11:00 am (H.R.)** Tommy Novasel (Dad)

**11:30 am (S.G.)** Tom & Terry Zinkham (The Family)

**12:00 pm (S.F.)** Selle & Lander Family (Tom & Jane Lander)

**5:00 pm (S.F.)** Alida Masyada (Jenny Lardo)

### MON. FEB. 14 SAINTS CRYIL, MONK, AND METHODIUS, BISHOP; VALENTINE'S DAY

**8:00 am (S.G.)** Kathy & Fritz Schott (Sister Patricia)

**8:30 am (S.F.)** Benedetto Soraci (Family)

**9:00 am (H.R.)** Vittoria Simeoni (Don & Lynda Mancini)

### TUE. FEB. 15

**8:00 am (S.G.)** Mary Ellen Roth (Barb Whipple)

**8:30 am (S.F.)** Jim & Diane Warren (Joanne & Family)

**9:00 am (H.R.)** Lynn Raye Campbell (David & Susanna Schaffer)

### WED. FEB. 16

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

**8:30 am (S.F.)** Theresa Sirera (Eileen & Dick)

**9:00 am (H.R.)** Margaret "Peggy" Fleo (Raymond & Peggy Boccardi)

**7:00 pm (S.F.)** Vince Trotta (Wife, Mary Jane Trotta)

### THUR. FEB. 17 THE SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS OF THE SERVITE ORDER

**8:00 am (S.G.)** Gary & Marianne Gebhart (Butch & Patti Langer)

**8:30 am (S.F.)** Vincent Plocido, Sr. (Tom & Annette Bonham)

**9:00 am (H.R.)** Rosemarie Ferrario - Anniversary (son, Lou)

### FRI. FEB. 18

**8:30 am (S.F.)** Dorothy Kessler (Ron Marranaci)

#### *Eucharistic Adoration after 8:30 Mass*

**9:00 am (H.R.)** Raymond Loccisano (Michael & Janice Loccisano)

**9:15 am (S.G.)** Anne Marie Birchok

(Teachers & Staff of St. Gregory School)

### SAT. FEB. 19

**9:00 am (H.R.)** Sam Teolis (Ladies of Charity)

**Confessions: 10:00 am at St. Ferdinand and St. Gregory**

**12:30 pm at Holy Redeemer**

### SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**4:00 pm (S.F.)** Mary J. Leitholf (Whitesel Family)

**5:00 pm (S.G.)** Don Schuster (Marge Schuster)

**5:00 pm (H.R.)** Otterina Edith Yount (Don & Lynda Mancini)

**6:00 pm (S.F.)** The Freeman Family (Doug Broglie)

### SUN. FEB. 20 SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**8:00 am (S.G.)** Angie Eppinger (ROLO Group of St. Gregory)

**8:00 am (S.F.)** James DeAngelo (Stephanie B.)

**9:00 am (H.R.)** Dr. Lawrence Fazioli (Family)

**10:00 am (S.F.)** John Pecyna (Patty & Bob MacZura)

**11:00 am (H.R.)** Jim Sudano (Don & Louisa Bunney)

**11:30 am (S.G.)** Danny DeCaria (A Friend)

**12:00 pm (S.F.)** Dennis Sims (Family)

**5:00 pm (S.F.)** Ray Nowak (The Stoffa Family)



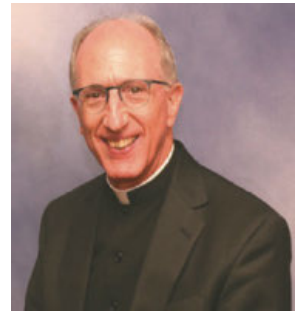
S.F.: St. Ferdinand, H.R.: Holy Redeemer, S.G.: St. Gregory

## FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR'S DESK

### READY... OR NOT

Throughout the many years of school, I worked very hard to do as well as I could. I studied (some might even say obsessed) to take in as much as possible and to understand clearly. I enjoyed seeing new things and making connections between various disciplines. After all of those years were completed, I assumed that I had it all figured out. At that point, I guess it seemed to me that I was set and good to go for my remaining years. What a shock it was, then, to find out that my education had not taught me what I needed to know but had actually prepared me to discover what I needed to know. My education wasn't final with the last school bell, but that bell was a wake-up call to start me on the journey of life. Being in control of the present didn't mean being in control of the future. I wasn't ready in the sense of being finished but ready in the sense of being predisposed for more.

Our Scripture passages this weekend warn us against being over-confident or self-assured. We need to be careful where we place our trust. If we think we have it all or have it all figured out, we will surely fall prey to the shifting sands of reality. Our future has got to be more solid than what we can provide for ourselves. Through the prophet Jeremiah this weekend, the Lord chastises those who feel that the only thing necessary for a good life is good connections. Unfortunately, if we place our hope for the future merely on our own skills or on what we can convince others to provide for us, we are ultimately doomed to failure since all of us are broken and incomplete in some sense. Paul, speaking from a Christian mindset, takes this notion one step further and makes one of the more startling statements in the New Testament: "If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are the most pitiable people of all." (1Cor 15:19) In other words, how sad it is if we believe that the words and deeds of Christ have only gained for us a certain amount of happiness during our limited years with nothing beyond that. That's why we hear from Jesus in Luke's Gospel showering His blessing on those who honestly work through the struggles of daily living



REV. PHILIP N. FARRELL

with an awareness that they will never have life fully worked out but that the more they submit to the will of God the more they will have the capacity to welcome the fruits of Christ's life, death, and resurrection in this life and in eternity.

WE are being overly simplistic if WE think that the merger of OUR three parishes is strictly a matter of following a process. If WE follow all of the steps laid out for US by the Diocese, everything will be nicely tied up and functioning smoothly by July of this year. Right? All the work WE've gone through since October of 2018 will not make US a parish come July. It has only prepared US, made US ready to become a parish. Once WE have a new name and begin to share everything, WE need to go beyond the logistics and focus on the faith, the faith necessary to build a family. WE need to see this as a family brought together not by a human plan but by a plan of God Himself. It is important that WE ready OURselves for what God has in store for US, and not only in OUR lifetimes, but for generations to come, as a steppingstone that leads all of US to eternity. WE can choose to focus only on the work WE must do for today, or WE can stretch OUR imaginations to allow the Good Lord to do through US what is necessary for attaining the Kingdom. WE will never be fully ready, but WE can choose to be prepared.

God Bless the Cities of God!



# Prayers and Worship

4 | February 13, 2022

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

### SUNDAY READINGS

#### First Reading:

Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD,  
whose hope is the LORD. (Jer 17:7)

#### Psalm:

Blessed are they who hope in the Lord. (Ps 1)

#### Second Reading:

If the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised,  
and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain.

(1 Cor 15:16-17)

#### Gospel:

“Blessed are you who are poor,  
for the kingdom of God is yours.” (Lk 6:20)

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## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 13, 2022

### Sunday:

Jer 17:5-8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6 [40:5a]/1 Cor 15:12, 16-20/  
Lk 6:17, 20-26

### Monday:

Jas 1:1-11/Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76/Mk 8:11-13

### Tuesday:

Jas 1:12-18/Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19/Mk 8:14-21

### Wednesday:

Jas 1:19-27/Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5/Mk 8:22-26

### Thursday:

Jas 2:1-9/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 8:27-33

### Friday:

Jas 2:14-24, 26/Ps 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 8:34-9:1

### Saturday:

Jas 3:1-10/Ps 12:2-3, 4-5, 7-8/Mk 9:2-1

### Next Sunday:

1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13 [8a]/  
1 Cor 15:45-49/Lk 6:27-38

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOULS AND FAMILIES OF:**  
**Heather Watson, daughter of Janet Rice, Timothy Drew,**  
**brother of Frank Drew, Michael Schantz, son of Jim**  
**Shantz, Angie Eppinger, wife of Jim Eppinger.**

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:**

**Dan & Florence Coennen**

from daughter, Carol

**St. Gregory:**

**Ron & Jackie D'Alessandro**

from Family



## 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

**Joan Smith**

from Deb & Dan Keener



## SANCTUARY FLOWERS

**St. Gregory:**

**Norbert Miller**

from Anonymous

**Holy Redeemer:**

**Altar Flowers-**

**In Memory of Domenic "Mimi" Bellissimo**

from Tressa, wife

**Tabernacle Flowers-**

**In Memory of Bruno & Victoria Bellissimo**

from Tressa Bellissimo



## 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

February 13, 2022 | 5

## PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING CITIES OF GOD PARISHIONERS IN YOUR PRAYERS

Joy McElwain	Doreen Tomon
Krissy White	Anthony Palagallo
Smail Family	Julie Tomon
Clarence Marsh	Catherine Shuttleworth
Brooks Anthony	Antoinette Pansera
Sarver	John D'Leonardo
Bethany Burick	Beth Jansen
B.J. Biondi	Michael Garrett
Gus Fornataro	Luca Bartolomeo-Damon
Nancy Smith	
John/Mary Guerrini	
Karen Williams	
Helen Yuricha	
Mike Yuricha	
Judy Bokor	
Jim Thornton	
Kathleen Russo	



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!**  
**Prayer Intentions will run for 1 month**

## 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 - ckunzsafeenvironment@gmail.com  
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

2022 dates are available  
for Altar and Tabernacle  
Flowers. Please call  
Holy Redeemer Church  
office if you are  
interested in  
purchasing flowers for  
any available weekend.  
Donation is \$50.

### ST. GREGORY

#### Administration Office

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 2:00 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](mailto: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 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 | February 13, 2022

## READERS

### ST. FERDINAND

#### February 12/13, 2022

- 4:00 pm - Bill Yates
- 6:00 pm - Brian Connell
- 8:00 am - Richard Duggan
- 10:00 am - Art Riccadonna
- 12:00 pm - Lois Bradley
- 5:00 pm - Daria Kubisiak

#### February 19/20, 2022

- 4:00 pm - Julie Klimaszewski
- 6:00 pm - Eileen Newara
- 8:00 am - Brian Connell
- 10:00 am - Lois Bradley
- 12:00 pm - Mary Samsa
- 5:00 pm - Michael Garczynski

### HOLY REDEEMER

#### February 12/13, 2022

- 5:00 pm - Stacey Cunningham
- 9:00 am - Debbie Kucan
- 11:00 am - Licia Lentz

#### February 19/20, 2022

- 5:00 pm - Guy Calabro
- 9:00 am - Frank Manzo
- 11:00 am - Jennifer Bowser

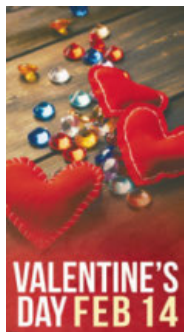
### ST. GREGORY

#### February 12/13, 2022

- 5:00 pm - Valerie Bucek
- 8:00 am - Mark Harmanos
- 11:30 am - Jack Neal

#### February 19/20, 2022

- 5:00 pm - Jennifer Livorse
- 8:00 am - Mark Kline
- 11:30 am - Greg Melucci



## EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

### ST. FERDINAND

#### February 12/13, 2022

- 4:00 pm - Richard Sismour, Kevin Monahan, Deacon Don Pepe, Barbara Margo
- 6:00 pm - Julie Heidish, Marsha Grabowski, Patricia Mann
- 8:00 am - Karen Good, Jim Haefner, Norma Wolff, Tony DeCesaris
- 10:00 am - Mary Jane Vano, Bob Meinert, Barbara Moeller, Phyllis Wirth
- 12:00 pm - Daniel Flynn, Judy Sapos, Mark DeNapoli, Mazie Pliskaner
- 5:00 pm - Heide Resch, Kathleen Kozmin, Carol Herman, Steffany McCafferty

#### February 19/20, 2022

- 4:00 pm - Vera Belfiore, Debbie Frazier, Harry McNeillie, Kevin Monahan
- 6:00 pm - Patricia Mann, Anita Stright, Richard Kucia
- 8:00 am - Carol Bartley, Anthony Bartley, Karen DeCesaris, Kathleen Newcomer
- 10:00 am - Judy Shearer, Mary Jane Vano, Phyllis Wirth, Carole Gigliotti
- 12:00 pm - Maureen Hulick, Melinda Terbosic, Tony DeCesaris, Larua Asseff
- 5:00 pm - Tom Moravek, Dan Drotar, Kathleen Kozmin, Cynthia Olshavsky

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

#### February 12/13, 2022

- 5:00 pm - \*Anne Cvetich, Lou Ferrario, Jackie Dimeo
- 9:00 am - \*Mimi Spade, Barb Russo, Dorothy Schilling
- 11:00 am - \*Rosina Betz, Kathy Gorzkowski, Mary Ann Viccari

#### February 19/20, 2022

- 5:00 pm - \*Lisa Greco, Vickie Koach, Patty Koach
- 9:00 am - \*Jan Zayas, Mark Strosnider, Julie Strosnider
- 11:00 am - \*Paula Keane, Loretta Silvestri, Francine Hunter

### ST. GREGORY

#### February 12/13, 2022

- 5:00 pm - Mark Lutz, Frances Tartel, Michael Gaydosz
- 8:00 am - Denise Knauff, Dan Sauers, Carol Keener
- 11:30 am - Mary Barry, Michael Smith, Jason Burr

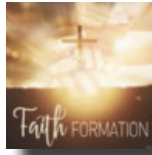
#### February 19/20, 2022

- 5:00 pm - Mark Lutz, Frances Tartel, Michael Gaydosz
- 8:00 am - Denise Knauff, Dan Sauers, Carol Keener
- 11:30 am - Mary Barry, Michael Smith, Jason Burr



## ALTAR SERVERS

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



## FAITH FORMATION

### ST. FERDINAND:

Sessions are scheduled for Sunday, February 13 with a Service Day 1-3 pm Monday, February 14 4:30 pm & 6 pm, Tuesday, February 15 4:30 pm & 6 pm. No sessions on Sunday, February 20, Monday, February 21, and Tuesday, February 22 due to the President's Day holiday. Sessions resume on Sunday, February 27, Monday, February 28 and Tuesday, March 1.

If you have any questions, please given the Faith Formation Office a call at 724.776.9177.

### ST. GREGORY:

Sessions are scheduled for Sunday, February 13 9:30am -10:45 am. No sessions on Sunday, February 20 except for the Special 8th Grade Session with Deacon Don held in St. Gregory's Church. All sessions resume on Sunday, February 27 9:30 am – 10:45 a.m. If you have any questions, please given the Faith Formation Office a call at 724.776.9177.

### HOLY REDEEMER:

Holy Redeemer Elementary Faith Formation for Grades 1 – 6: February 14 : 4:45pm to 6:00 pm Sunday, February 13 : 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. 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, February 24, 2022.

CORPUS SANGUIS ANIMA et DIVINITAS



## 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](mailto:Jeff@stferd.org) and he will send you the zoom link.

## ST. FERDINAND'S CONTRIBUTION TAX STATEMENT REQUEST

Due to the current circumstances, a seven day notice is required to process a contribution statement request. Please call St. Ferdinand's office at 724.776.2888 to request yours. Statements can be picked up or mailed.



## 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!

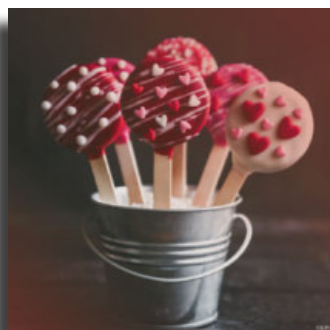
## 2022 HOLY REDEEMER SPECIAL ACTIVITIES GROUP (SAG) \$UPER \$PECIAL

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!



## SCRIPTURE STUDY WITH DEACON DON PEPE

Please join Deacon Don Pepe on Monday, March 7 at 7:00 pm. He will be leading us in a scripture study that will take us a little deeper into the Sunday Gospel. Given the recent COVID surge, if you are hesitant to attend Mass in-person, this is an excellent opportunity to discover the beauty of scripture and grow in your relationship with Christ as Deacon Don explains, discusses, and answers questions about the week's Gospel. All are welcome no matter where you are in your faith journey and regardless of your previous scripture study experience. To join Deacon Don for this Scripture Study, you must register by Wednesday, March 2 so you can receive a Zoom link. Please send an email to [jeff@stferd.org](mailto:jeff@stferd.org) with your name and preferred email address. You will then receive a link to join the Zoom session by Thursday, March 3.



## ST. GREGORY SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT

We have some very exciting news to share about how you can help us raise \$100,000 for our great school! Please watch the video below and scan the QR code to jump on board!



## 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 a great birthday gift, etc., that lasts all year long. All proceeds help assist our parish.

## GLADE RUN LUTHERAN SERVICE BLOOD DRIVE

Glade Run Lutheran Services is hosting a Blood Drive on Friday, February 18 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at Seiberling Rec Center, 10 St. Stephen's Drive, Zelienople PA, 16063. To schedule your appointment visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), search by zip code **16063**, scroll down and choose Glade Run Lutheran Services on Friday, February 18. Then click see times and sign up for your appointment. For more information, contact Michelle Herr at [mherr@gladerun.org](mailto:mherr@gladerun.org)



## JOB OPPORTUNITY

As we work to unify our operations in anticipation of the merger of our three parishes in July of 2022, The Cities of God announces opportunities in two classes of positions - Maintenance Workers and Janitors – to attend to the repair and upkeep of our properties. These positions are available immediately. A brief summary of each position is stated below. For more details, including job descriptions and application requirements, please go to <https://www.diopitt.org/jobs>.

### **Maintenance Workers, Parish Grouping of The Cities of God (St. Ferdinand Parish, St. Gregory Parish and Holy Redeemer Parish)**

The Parish Grouping of The Cities of God, which includes the three parishes of St. Ferdinand, St. Gregory, and Holy Redeemer is seeking both full time and part time Maintenance Workers for the Parish. These parishes call together the faithful in three principle cities (Cranberry Twp., Zelienople, and Ellwood City) and all the many other communities in between. All Maintenance Workers will maintain and ensure the safe and proper maintenance of all church, school, and parish buildings and grounds.

### **Janitors, Parish Grouping of The Cities of God (St. Ferdinand Parish, St. Gregory Parish and Holy Redeemer Parish)**

The Parish Grouping of The Cities of God, which includes the three parishes of St. Ferdinand, St. Gregory, and Holy Redeemer is seeking both full time and part time Janitors for the Parish. These parishes call together the faithful in three principle cities (Cranberry Twp., Zelienople, and Ellwood City) and all the many other communities in between. All Janitors will maintain and ensure that all church, school, and parish buildings are clean, in an orderly manner, and ready for use.



**From March 2nd – April 10, you're invited to join** other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You're also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood, 933 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, and to help spread the word about this important community outreach. If you'd like more information – and especially if you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact: **Nikki Bruni, [nbruni@40daysforlifepgh.com](mailto:nbruni@40daysforlifepgh.com), or Donna Goss at [gdgoss620@gmail.com](mailto:gdgoss620@gmail.com)**

- 20,689 babies saved
- 229 abortion workers converted
- 114 abortion centers closed!

**Kick-off Mass at Divine Mercy Parish, Epiphany Church on Tuesday, March 1st at 7:00 pm, followed by a Eucharistic Procession to Planned Parenthood led by Fr. Chris Donley, Pastor of Divine Mercy Parish. All Christians are welcome to participate! This is a free event.**

**[40daysforlife.com/Pittsburgh](https://40daysforlife.com/Pittsburgh) for more info, or check out our blog at [40daysforlifepittsburgh.com](https://40daysforlifepittsburgh.com)**

## Here are some highlights from "Catholic School's Week 2022"

Well, the week full of activities is behind us and despite the cold, snow and ice, we managed to pull off a fun and educational 3 days to show off what we are learning and why we all love St. Gregory's School!



3rd Grade Studied Rocks and Minerals and shared their own collections with classmates.



Career Day for Everyone!

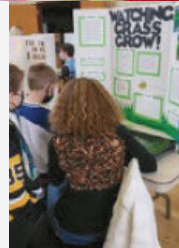


3- Year Old "Super Heroes" for the day with their favorite stuffed animal!



Kindergarten and 1st grade STEM projects using pretzels and marshmallows.

Students from 6th through 8th grade demonstrated Amazing Science Projects.



Annual Staff vs. 8th Grade Volleyball Game. Each team walked away with a win. It is always a lot of fun!

## PRAYING THE SENSES OF THE BODY: SIGHT, HEARING, SMELL, TASTE, TOUCH

Monday Evenings of Scripture-based Prayer  
Based on the Spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola  
Ever imagine seeing with the eyes of Jesus or using  
your hands in the way Jesus would? Join us as we  
use Holy Scripture and our life experience to  
consider how we might use the gifts of our senses  
better for the greater service of God.

Monday, February 21, 2022 from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm.  
Free but registration is required. Please register by  
February 16, 2022 so you can receive the Zoom link.  
To register send an email to

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.



## THE ARK AND THE DOVE

The Ark and The Dove Retreat Center (Gibsonia, Pa) is  
hosting a Holy Spirit Retreat from  
March 11-13, 2022. Participants can register for  
overnight registration (\$150), commuter registration  
(\$100), or virtual registration (\$50).

We invite you to attend and experience a deeper  
encounter with the Holy Spirit. To register, please visit  
our website:

[www.thearkandthedoveworldwide.org/2022HolySpirit](http://www.thearkandthedoveworldwide.org/2022HolySpirit).

Space is limited, so register today! Speakers include  
Fr. Joe Freedy, Fr. Mike Ackerman, Alicia Hartle, DLJC  
Sisters, Katie Grella, and more!"

## ADDICTION RECOVERY MINISTRY NEWS

A.R.M. is sponsoring a panel discussion titled, "A  
Day of Hope and Healing" on  
Saturday, February 26, from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm at  
St. Francis of Assisi Church Hall,  
2599 Freeport Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238. This  
event will feature speakers talking  
about recovery and substance use disorders. Tickets  
are available on Eventbrite or by  
calling 412.378.9290. The cost is \$10 per person to  
help defray the cost of lunch.

A ZOOM virtual Bingo fundraiser to benefit our Light  
of Life Rescue Mission brown bag  
lunch initiative will be held on  
Sunday, February 20. Tickets are \$25 per person and  
will include 15 regular games, 5 specials and a  
jackpot. Tickets - please call 412.378.9290 or go to  
our VANCO website,  
<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YZJ2>.

Six Steps to SANITY is a faith-based ministry that  
offers support and tools to families  
dealing with a loved one's substance use disorder in  
a safe and confidential  
environment. Addiction Recovery Ministry is  
sponsoring a 12-week session beginning  
on Tuesday, February 22, from 7:00 pm-8:30 pm in  
the hall of St. Francis of Assisi  
Church, 2599 Freeport Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238.  
Using a study guide workbook  
based on the best-selling book, "Setting Boundaries  
with Your Adult Children," by  
Allison Bottke, families will learn how enabling and  
codependency contributes to  
addiction. Registration in advance is required and to  
register or for more information,  
please contact Deacon Tim Noca at 412.793.4511  
ext. 213 or [tnoca@diopitt.org](mailto:tnoca@diopitt.org)



# Reflections

12 | February 13, 2022

## GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

February 13, 2022 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

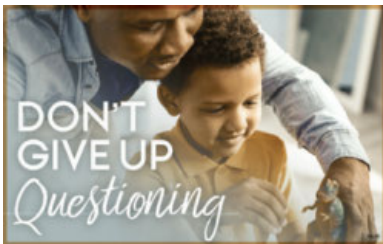
What has been the most difficult challenge you faced in your life? Many difficult human experiences can “turn up the heat” in our lives, causing us to question the why of things or even fall into despair. Some people just somewhat passively accept what life brings, even death, and chalk difficult experiences up to happening “because they do.” They seemingly endure and move on. Taking life at face value, there really is no ultimate meaning to things. It’s easier to ignore that inner prompting calling us to understand why. It’s there whether we admit it or not. To question or not to question — that is the question! People sometimes give up the God search because it causes too many questions. Once we open the door to the possibility of God’s existence, then all of the awkward, challenging, and tragic pieces of life have to find their place.

It gets messy. But the search is so important to living. We can easily dry up and become arid, abandoning any hope for purpose and meaning because it’s too difficult and non-rational at times. In searching for answers to the how and why of life, human beings also embark on a search for God. When one finally stumbles upon the real living tangible presence of God, then that discovery allows life’s ironies and tensions to be held side by side with the all-encompassing totally unconditional, unmerited love of God! Then when life’s heat gets turned up, difficulties and challenges abound, dryness and heartache become the norm, the soul remains in joyful repose. There is no fear.

The beatitudes celebrate life’s ironies and tensions, holding them all together in the Kingdom of God. Poverty, hunger, weeping, being insulted and hated are not things we would normally associate with being God’s friends. But they are! In fact, those who experience these uncomfortable realities of life are actually better off than those who do not. This is what makes Jesus’ message so intriguing! Don’t give up questioning.

Questioning the apparent inequities and polarities of human experience will certainly challenge one’s faith. But it’s the only way to deepen it.

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6th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Luke 6:17, 20-26

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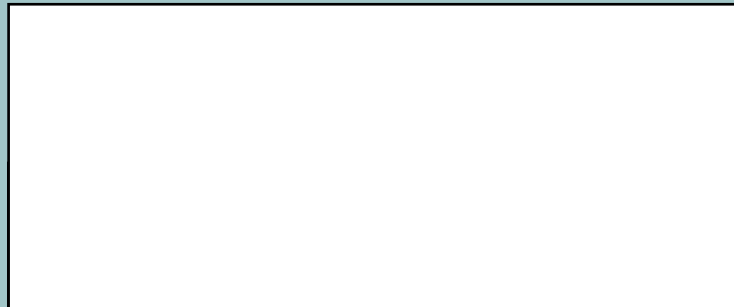
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