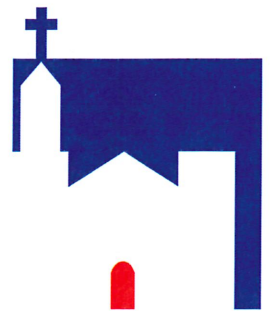


# Amazing Grace

## April 2025



**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**315 Wayne Street**  
**Sandusky, OH 44870**

### *~ Mission Statement ~*

*"In light of our confidence that 'God loves you. No exceptions',  
Grace Episcopal Church strives to be a welcoming community,  
inviting everyone to learn, serve, and share in Christ's love."*

The Most Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop  
The Rev. Anne B. Jolly, Bishop, Diocese of Ohio

### **MASS**

**Sunday at 8:00 a.m. in the Chapel**

**Sunday at 10:00 a.m.**

**In-Person, livestreamed on Boxcast, and on Facebook**

**Daily Mass at 9am in the Chapel**  
**(Wednesday, Thursday, Friday)**  
**In-Person and on Facebook**

**Tuesday at 5:30pm in the Chapel • In-Person and livestreamed on Facebook**

### **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday through Friday, 8am - 3pm

### **CONTACT US**

Telephone	419-625-6919
Website	GraceSandusky.org
Church Office E-Mail	office@GraceSandusky.org
Fr. Seth Wymer, Rector	frseth@GraceSandusky.org
Barb Reszko, Candidate for Holy Orders	babrauniii@gmail.com
Randy Ruthsatz, Organist/Choirmaster	rarcpa@sbcglobal.net

### **Parish Staff**

Fr. Seth Wymer, Rector  
Barb Reszko, Candidate for Holy Orders  
Randy Ruthsatz, Organist/Choirmaster  
Debbie Chase, Parish Administrator  
Kelly Gerhardstein, Housekeeper  
Dr. Robert Speers, Parish Historiographer

## **RECTOR'S REFLECTION - APRIL 2025**

I feel like we are in a sprint through this season of Lent, which I guess is good, and also a little bit sad. We have added a Thursday evening time of quiet prayer and gathering for vespers (evening prayer), which has been life giving to me. In this busy time of a priest's and a church's life I have greatly appreciated this quiet time (whether others join me or not) – and as your priest I encourage you to come if you find yourself in need of some quiet and a break.



Because we are still in Lent I am not going to focus on the joy of Easter, but spend this article talking about Holy Week. As you may have guessed it Holy Week is meant to be spent doing holy things...like attending church services!

### **Holy Week:**

- Officially kicks off with Palm Sunday on April 13<sup>th</sup>. We will bless and distribute palms, pray with the Gospel of Jesus' Passion.
- On April 15<sup>th</sup> you are invited to join the clergy of the eastern portion of the diocese for the Chrism Mass and Renewal of Vows at Trinity Cathedral at 11a; it is a wonderful time to see priests being priests with other priests!
- We will gather on April 17<sup>th</sup> for Maundy Thursday at 9a for morning prayer. The evening liturgy of the Lord's Supper with the washing of feet (for those who are interested) will be at 6p followed by quiet time in the chapel and compline (night prayer) at 8p.
- On April 18<sup>th</sup> we will gather at 9a for morning prayer, at noon for Stations of the Cross, and at 6p for the Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts.
- On Saturday, the 19<sup>th</sup> we will have morning prayer at 9a, blessing of Easter baskets at 9:15a, and the Great Vigil of Easter at 8p (for those who may not know this is the longest service of the church year, and in my humble opinion the most beautiful – if you have never been to one...come!).
- Lastly, on Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> join us for Mass of the Lord's Resurrection at 8a in the chapel and 10a in the church. For those who are interested, after Randy's beautiful postlude on Easter Sunday we will have a "silencing of the organ". This is in preparation for the renovation work (more about this under the Renovation section of the newsletter).

It is my prayer that you will consider making this week of the Church's life a part of your spiritual journey as we end Lent and move toward the joy and beauty of the empty tomb on Easter morning!

See you in church on Sunday,

Fr. Seth | Rector



**Below are some important dates of events taking place here and in the Diocese in April.**

**If you have any questions or would like further information,  
please reach out to Fr. Seth or Debbie in the Parish Office.**

Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>

6p-7p Contemplative Prayer in the Chapel

Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>

11:30a Altar Guild Meeting in the MSR

Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

9a Adult Faith Formation - Discussing Holy Week

10a – Children's Chapel (3rd grade and below)

Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>

9a Thrift Shop Steering Committee meeting

Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>

6p-7p Contemplative Prayer in the Chapel

Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>

8:30a-10:30a Soccer Saturday @ Osborn Park

Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday

8a – in the Chapel

10a – in the Church

Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>

11a Trinity Cathedral, Chrism Mass  
and Renewal of Vows

Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>

9a Mass

Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, Maundy Thursday

9a in the Chapel: Morning Prayer

6p in the Church: Evening Mass of the Lord's  
Supper

7p in the Chapel: Quiet prayer

8p in the Chapel: Night Prayer

Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, Good Friday

9a in the Chapel: Morning Prayer

Noon in the Chapel: Stations of the Cross

6p in the Church: Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts

Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, Holy Saturday

9a in the Chapel: Morning Prayer

9:15a in the Chapel: Blessing of Easter Baskets

10a in the Church and Chapel: Decorate for Easter

8p in the Church: The Great Vigil of Easter

Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, Easter Sunday

8a in the Chapel

10a in the Church

Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>

Offices are closed

The week of April 21<sup>st</sup> Fr. Seth is on vacation,  
no services this week

Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>

4:30p-5:30p Sole Community Meal of the Month

5:15p – Evening Prayer

Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>

Sunday within the Octave of Easter

8a in the Chapel

10a in the Church with the blessing of workers and  
removal of sacred objects

3p Sandusky Choral Society Spring Concert



**Join us for Evening Prayer**

When: 5:15pm (On Community Meal Saturdays)

**In April - the 26<sup>th</sup>**

How long: 20 minutes

Where: Chapel, Grace Episcopal Church, Sandusky, Ohio

Who: EVERYONE

What to expect: Pray and reflect together, Share God's love.







## April Birthdays!

1st	Randy Ruthsatz
11th	Lisa Fowler
14th	Kenneth Neiding Terrin Schnee
17th	Mike Poyer
20th	Jo Pankow
21st	Kitty Smith
22nd	Tim Bressler
23rd	Katie Cummings
24th	Robert Speers
27th	Bridget Holzhauser
30th	Leon Wieber

*Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase;  
bless and guide them wherever they may be.  
Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when  
discouraged or sorrowful;  
raise them up when they fall;  
and in their hearts may your peace  
which passes understanding,  
abide all the days of their lives;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

***Our apologies if we missed your birthday.  
Please advise the church office  
of any changes or omissions.***

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PROTECT AND SERVE**

Ted Bertsch	Brian Michael Laws
Cameron Brace	Marcus Mettert
Chris Cheek	Kevin Poyer
Sam Freeman	Sean Poyer
Adam Hagelberger	Thomas Roesch
Joel Hagy	Cameren Scholl
James R. Hart, III	Jamison Shriver
Craig Lambert	Ayden Swinehart
Vance Lambert	Matt Trautman

### **PASTORAL CARE**

If you know of someone in the congregation who is ill, homebound or in the hospital please let the parish office or Fr. Seth know so that he can visit them. Fr. Seth's contact information is: 740.624.5818 and [frseth@gracesandusky.org](mailto:frseth@gracesandusky.org)



The deadline to submit information for the May newsletter is **Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.**



### **Grace Episcopal Thrift Shop**

301 East Market Street • Sandusky, OH 44870

**419-626-5453**

**Hours: Tuesday-Friday: Noon-4pm**

**Saturday: 10am-1pm**

**Closed Sunday & Monday**

• **Clothing, Decor and Housewares** •

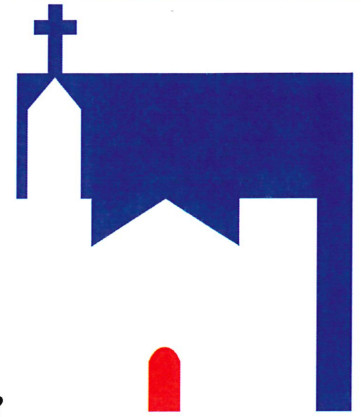
*All Proceeds Benefit Erie County Charities  
Our Store Is Staffed By Community Volunteers*



• **Donations Accepted, In Season** •



# Church Renovation



In this second installment about the church's renovation I am able to provide some timeframes and some important dates leading up to the work's start:

As mentioned earlier we will "Silence the Organ" after Randy's postlude on Easter Sunday (April 20<sup>th</sup>). Why? Because workers from Buzard will be in the week of the 21<sup>st</sup> to cover the organ pipes in the galley (the balcony) and the sanctuary (the ones that can be seen from the nave). Why are they doing this? Because dust will happen from the work being done and dust is really REALLY bad for organ pipes and inner bellows.

On Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> the church will be open for those who want to go in to take pictures, to pray, or just to remember the special memories that you have shared with our church. Regardless of one's view towards the renovation work, it is a special place for all of us and all of us have some memories tied to it, so it is important to have some unrushed time to spend in it and with it.

On Sunday April 27<sup>th</sup> we will have a special service for the 2nd Sunday of Easter: We will gather with a number of the contractors who will be doing the work in our church. We will have a special blessing for them as they begin this work and take time to remove the sacred items from the sanctuary. We will also be asking for assistance from the congregation that Sunday to aid us in removing the books from the pews.

On Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup> the work will begin in the church. The first week or two will be the workers securing the site (covering the pianos, organ consoles, and electronics desk) and the removal of the pews for stripping, repair, and painting - all 60 pews!

Throughout this process those attending Sunday (or Saturday evening) masses will have the opportunity to go up into the church and watch the process from week-to-week. For those who enjoy a warmer climate you will be able to watch via our online camera that will be on the Facebook page during the services on the weekend. I hope everyone takes the opportunity to check in on the work being done from time-to-time.

Fr. Seth



**PARENTS:** We would like to know when your children's events are! Whether they are involved in sports, music, theater, or art, Fr. Seth would like to try and make it to some of their events and advertise them on our calendar for others!

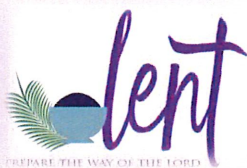
Please email the office [office@gracesandusky.org](mailto:office@gracesandusky.org) with them or the link to where one might find them! Thank you in advance for including your parish family.





### LENTEN PRAYER SERVICE

Thursday evenings at 6pm during Lent  
we will have a Prayer Service  
in the Chapel.



### CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The Office will be closed  
Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>.

### ChurchNext Classes Available for Free in Our Diocese

Our diocese is thrilled to offer a wide range of free ChurchNext online classes. The classes are ideal for individual and group settings. Their new featured courses include: *What Is Ash Wednesday?*, *Introducing Dietrich Bonhoeffer*, *Coping with Suicide*, *How Should Christians Protest?*, and *Resident Aliens: The World Is Not Our Home*. The courses are formatted for groups and individuals. If you're a new student and would like access to these and dozens of other online classes email [christina@churchnext.tv](mailto:christina@churchnext.tv) and mention the diocesan membership.

This is a free diocesan resource open to all members of our diocesan family.

### COMMUNITY MEAL

Our April Community Meal date is **Saturday, the 26<sup>th</sup>**. We're only having one meal in April due to our Easter schedule. We serve our meals in the Mary Simpson Room from 4:30 - 5:30 pm.



Donations of fresh fruit and desserts are always needed and appreciated. These donations help keep the cost of the meal down.

If you can help, items can be dropped off at the church the week before the meal between 8am and 3pm or the Saturday of the meal after 3pm.

Interested in possibly being one of our cooks? Helpers? Questions? Please contact Lisa Fowler ([lisa.fowler@bex.net](mailto:lisa.fowler@bex.net) or 419-602-7969).

I want to take this opportunity to thank Mary Toney (our fearless leader at the Thrift Shop), her Steering Committee, and all of the dedicated volunteers who make the Thrift Shop run without stop or fault!



### ERIE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Last December we collected items for the youth at the Erie County Juvenile Justice Center. This past week we received thank you notes from the kids.

They are very appreciative of these items. The thank you notes are posted on the bulletin board by the women's restroom if you would like to see them.

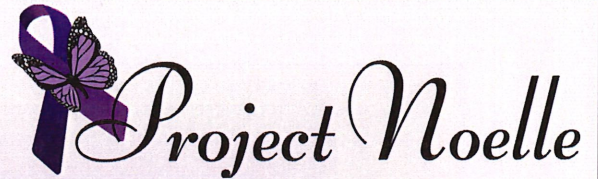
A couple of quotes from their notes...

*"It's nice to know that there are still people in the community that believe in us".*

*"Some of us have nobody to support us and buy us those things but you guys did. You didn't forget about us".*



Helping the smallest victims of the opioid epidemic  
(these children have lost a parent due to a drug overdose).



As one of our Lenten projects this year we at Grace are going to help provide items for 20 Easter baskets for the kids. We're going to gear our donations toward the older ones.

Below is a list of items that have been requested. If you would like to help, a collection bin will be in the lobby under the coat racks beginning March 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will be collecting items until Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.

\$5 Fast Food gift cards  
Pre-packaged candy  
Nail polish  
Drawing items – colored pencils, markers, pads  
Reusable water bottles  
Lip balm/Hand lotion  
No show socks  
Hair ties  
*Anything else a teen may like*

**HEIFER PROJECT FOR LENT:** The Outreach Committee is excited to have the Heifer Project again for our Lenten project. Giving an animal gift is like giving someone a small business, providing wool, milk, eggs and more. Your donation is providing families access to medicine, school, food and a sustainable livelihood. Heifer International works in 21 countries around the world alongside local farmers and business owners. They support farmers and their communities as they mobilize and envision their futures, provide training so they can improve the quantity and quality of the goods they produce, and connections to market to increase sales and incomes.



We hope everyone will join us in supporting this project. No donation is too small or too large. Volunteers will be in the Mary Simpson Room after the 10am service **April 6<sup>th</sup>, and April 13<sup>th</sup>**, if you wish to donate. Animal gift cards are available and range in price from \$10 to \$120 and you may buy as many as you wish! Checks can be made to Grace Episcopal Church with Heifer Project in the note. Help us make a difference in the world this Lenten season.



#### **Soccer Sign-Up**

On Saturdays in April and May, the Bay Area Soccer League has soccer games for the local children's leagues at Osborn Park. As part of our *Invite* group, we are again going to be there on these game days to give out coffee, water, and snacks for the parents and kids (there are no concessions for these games). We did this last fall and it was very well received.

What we need from you – volunteers to help with these Saturday morning events. It will only be a couple hours of your time (approx. 8:30-11am). A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the church office. If you have any questions, please speak with Becky Montague, Melissa Wymer, Fr. Seth, Debbie Chase, or Kaleen Lawrence. This is a fun way for us to be present in our community.



# SANDUSKY CHORAL SOCIETY, INC.

*presents their annual*

## SPRING CONCERT

### Lord of the Dance

**Friday, April 25, 2025**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**First Church of Bellevue**  
**901 Northwest Street**  
**Bellevue, Ohio**

**Patsy Subcasky**  
**Director**

**Sunday, April 27, 2025**  
**3:00 p.m.**

**Grace Episcopal Church**  
**315 Wayne Street**  
**Sandusky, Ohio**

**Charles Scroggy**  
**Accompanist**

**Admission is Free • Reception to Follow**

**- Freewill Offering -**

*Sandusky Choral Society, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization*



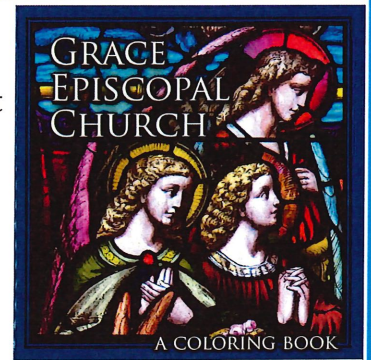
**At 9:15am on Holy Saturday (April 19<sup>th</sup>)** Fr. Seth will be in the chapel to bless Easter Baskets for those would like to bring them in for a special blessing.

This mainly Polish and Slovak tradition dates back to the times of Sts. Cyril and Methodius who blessed the items used for Easter dinner (mainly to keep people from getting sick when they ate undercooked or spoiled food). Nowadays most folks do not consider the dinner on Easter Sunday with the same level of gusto as Thanksgiving or Christmas, but there was a time when it was. So, if you would like Easter baskets of chocolates, toys, or maybe a renewed tradition of items for Easter dinner blessed please bring them into the chapel at 9:15a (after Morning Prayer) on Holy Saturday for a blessing.



### GRACE COLORING BOOK

In collaboration with Mary Hartz and Kara Holtzman we have created our first ever coloring book! Inside you'll see pictures from in around our church - beautifully done. And we are excited to be selling these to you. The cost is \$7, which covers our expense for design and printing. If interested in purchasing one, stop by the church office or talk with Fr. Seth.



*These would make great Easter presents!*

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF COMFORT OR HEALING

Amelia	Jeff & Nancy	Mike, Shelly &
Andrea	Jenny, Dave,	Derrick
Barbara	& Tate	Nancy
Betty & Mike	JoAnn	Pauline
Bev	Joe	Richard, Lisa
Bob	Joea & Neill	& Missy
Caine & Owen	Judy & Jim	Ron & Alice
Carolynne	Karen	Ron & Rene
Dawn	Kate	Ruth
Doug & Beth	Kris	Sr. Rosemary
Dudley & Linda	Lauren	Steve
Emily	Liz	Steve & Kathy
Emily & baby	Marie	Sue
Erica	Matthew	Vince
Ernie	Mia	Vona, Stewie &
Jeff	Michael	Alizander
		Wayne

*If you, a family member, or a friend is in need of Pastoral Care, or is hospitalized, please call the Church Office at 419-625-6919.*

Congratulations to Shantel Light, who was baptized at our 5:30pm Tuesday service on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

May your faith continue to deepen and flourish.



## *A Sneak Peak into May*

On Saturday evenings beginning May 3<sup>rd</sup> we will be adding a Eucharist at 5:30p.m.

Our next Euchre night is Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Starting in May, on the first of each month, Fr. Seth is having a Men's Coffee Hour at 9:30a.m. More details coming soon!



April 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1  Tuesday Eucharist 5:30pm in Chapel	2  Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel	3  Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel  Lenten Prayer Service 6pm Chapel	4  Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel	5
6  Mass 8am Chapel  Adult Faith Formation 9am  Mass 10am Church	7 Rector's Sabbath	8  Thrift Shop Steering Committee mtg 9am  Tuesday Eucharist 5:30pm in Chapel	9  Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel  Choir Practice 7pm	10  Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel  Lenten Prayer Service 6pm Chapel	11  Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel  Food card giveaway 9am	12  Soccer Saturday 8:30am  NCMAC Meeting Huron 9am
13 Palm Sunday  Mass 8am Chapel  Mass 10am Church  DOK Meeting Grace - 1pm	14 Rector's Sabbath    Choral Society Practice 7pm	15  Finance Committee mtg 1:15pm  Tuesday Eucharist 5:30pm in Chapel	16 Spy Wednesday  Mass 9am  Choir Practice 7pm	17 Maundy Thursday  Morning Prayer 9am  Maundy Thursday Mass 6pm	18 Good Friday  Morning Prayer 9am  Noon Stations of the Cross  Good Friday Service 6pm	19  Soccer Saturday 8:30am  Morning Prayer 9am Blessing of Easter Baskets after MP  Decorating Church for Easter 10am Easter Vigil 8pm
20 Easter  Mass 8am Chapel  Mass 10am Church	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Fr. Seth on vacation					
	Church Office Closed		Choir Practice 7pm			Community Meal 4:30p – 5:30p  Evening Prayer 5:15pm - Chapel
27  Mass 8am Chapel  Mass 10am Church  Sandusky Choral Society Concert 3pm	28 Rector's Sabbath	29  Tuesday Eucharist 5:30pm in Chapel	30  Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel  Choir Practice 7pm			



## APRIL RESPONSIBILITIES

	April 6 Fifth Sunday in Lent	April 13 Palm Sunday	April 17 Maundy Thursday	April 18 Good Friday	April 19 Easter Vigil	April 20 Easter Sunday	April 27 2nd Sunday of Easter
Ushers/ Greeters	<b>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</b>	April McCormack	----	----	<b>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</b>
Lector/Chalice Bearer 8AM	Kitty Smith	Debbie Chase	----	----	----	Mark Pifer	Amy Fox
Lector/Chalice Bearer 10AM	Becky Montague	Jim Hart	Ellen Mettert (6pm)	Amy Fox (6pm)	Becky Montague (8pm)	Marcia Fordham	Jim Hart
Acolyte	Rick Doyan	Ellen Mettert	----	----	Rick Doyan	Ellen Mettert	Rick Doyan
Livestream	Brandon Johnson	Don Lenhart	Jeff Fowler	Jeff Fowler	----	Jeff Fowler	Jeff Fowler
Altar Guild	Ellen Mettert	Marcia Fordham	Ellen Mettert	Ellen Mettert	Marcia Fordham	Judy Porterfield	Mary Ellen Hart
Coffee Hour	Mary Toney Barby Gravengaard	Jenny Schoewe	----	----	----	Becky Montague	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>

We're excited to have partnered with CleverGiver for online fundraising! Donate smart by shopping online through them, and they will donate a % of every dollar you spend. Thanks in advance for supporting **Parish of Grace Church** at [www.CleverGiver.com](http://www.CleverGiver.com)



### 5 Little-Known Benefits of CleverGiver

- 1. Many Times Better Than Amazon Smile (which is no more)** - With CleverGiver, you will be able to donate five to eight times more than Amazon Smile used to. It's 1.2% on purchases at Apple, 2.4% at Walmart.com, 3% at Target.com, 3.6% at Lowe's, 4.2% at Wayfair, and so on.
- 2. Matching First-Purchase Cashback 100%** - Each shopper's first purchase cashback is 100% matched by CleverGiver – doubling the amount (available for donations) in the shopper's account.
- 3. Customers Don't Pay a Penny More** - Whenever you shop with your favorite brands through CleverGiver, you do not pay more than you would've paid going to their websites directly. CleverGiver donates out of the commissions they receive from these brands, sharing the larger chunk of their revenue with the nonprofits supported by their users.
- 4. Ability to Support Multiple Nonprofits** - Unlike all other similar services (which allow you to support only one nonprofit at a time), CleverGiver allows each shopper to designate up to three nonprofits to support, including the exact percentage of funds that should go to each. There's also a fourth option which is cashback.
- 5. Generous Referral and Welcome Bonuses** - CleverGiver rewards its individual users for referring new shoppers (new members without previous or existing accounts). Use your custom referral link and as soon as your referral accumulates \$7.00 in CleverGiver Credit from purchases (not in other referral bonuses), both you and your referral get \$7.00 each.