

2nd Sunday OF ADVENT



Ss. Cosmas & Damian Parish

616 W. Mahoning St., Punxsutawney, PA 15767

814-938-6540

www.sscdchurch.com

Mass Intentions for This Week

Saturday, December 5

4:30 p.m. Gary A. Lewis -- Bill & Margie Meenan

Sunday, December 6

8:00 a.m. Nick & June Sandy -- Anita Bowser

11:00 a.m. Frances & Sandy Manco --
Joann & Tom Kujawa

Monday, December 7

8:00 a.m. Theresa Fairman --
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Fairman

Tuesday, December 8 - The Immaculate Conception Of The Blessed Virgin Mary

9:00 a.m. Caroline Martino -- Mary Jane & Family

Wednesday, December 9

8:00 a.m. Anthony & Jenny Villella -- Anita Bowser

Thursday, December 10

8:00 a.m. Parishioners

Friday, December 11

8:00 a.m. Alice Coble -- Anibaldi Family

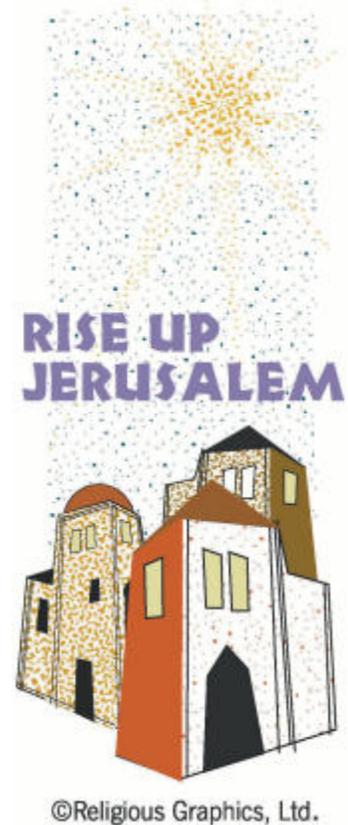
Saturday, December 12

4:30 p.m. Deceased of the B. E. Henry
and Joseph Eggleston Families --
Estate of Gertie Eggleston

Sunday, December 13

8:00 a.m. Ralph & Catherine Adams --
Tony Gigliotti

11:00 a.m. Emily Zaborowski -- Tom & Pat Strawn



The Church encourages frequent, even daily, Holy Communion, but if at any time we cannot go to Mass, in or out of this season of the coronavirus, we can still unite ourselves to the Eucharist by making a spiritual Communion. When we make an Act of Spiritual Communion, we express our faith in Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist and ask him to unite himself with us.

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least
spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



A herald's voice in the desert, crying

Prepare the way of the LORD, make straight his paths

Dear Parishioners:

Today's Gospel is taken from the beginning of Mark. Unlike Luke and Matthew, Mark does not include any details of Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that he would bring to us.



Mark's description of the appearance of John the Baptist highlights John's continuity with the Jewish prophetic tradition. Mark combines quotations from the Old Testament books of Malachi, Isaiah, and Exodus. Mark's description of John as an ascetic, living in the desert, clothed in camel hair, and eating locusts and wild honey, is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah found in Second Kings. The people of Judea and Jerusalem flock to him, listening to his message of repentance and forgiveness; they also come to him to be baptized. Mark's Gospel is clear, however, that John the Baptist's role is only to prepare the way for another who will come, one who is greater than John.

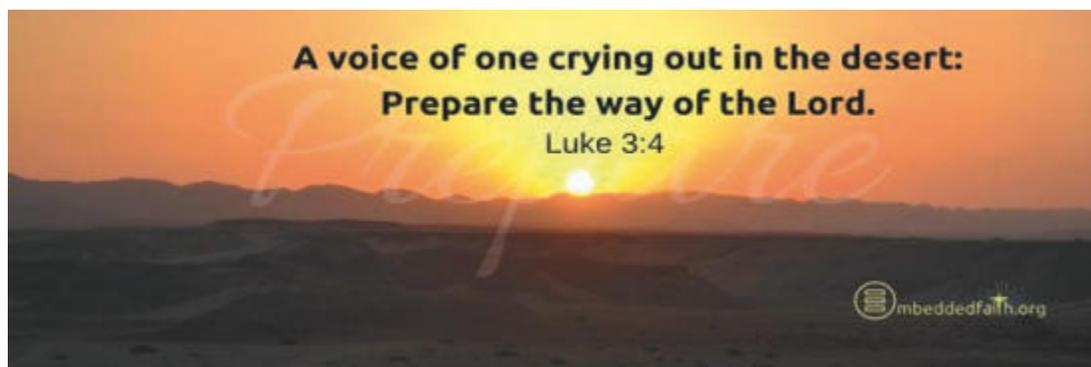
Many scholars believe that the Gospels reflect the tension that likely existed between followers of John the Baptist and disciples of Jesus. Each of the four Evangelists report on John's preaching and baptizing, and they each emphasize the importance of Jesus' baptism by John. The four Gospels also explain that John was sent to preach in preparation for another. In the Gospel of Luke, the question is raised as to whether John the Baptist was himself the Messiah. Just as in today's Gospel, however, John speaks quite explicitly that the Messiah was to come after him.

In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John says that he has baptized with water, but that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism, but a preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

John the Baptist is presented to us as a model during Advent. We, too, are called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. Like John the Baptist, we are messengers in service to one who is greater than we are. Our Baptism commissions us to call others to life as disciples of Jesus.

God Bless!

Msgr. J. Riccardo





Rest In Peace

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Jean Kaza of our parish, who died this past week. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

May her soul rest in peace.

ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR SAINT VINCENT DEPAUL

The collection on Thanksgiving Day was for the work of our own St. Vincent DePaul Society. If you didn't get a chance to drop your donation in the basket on Thanksgiving, you certainly may do so any Sunday, now or throughout the year.

The Saint Vincent DePaul Society helps more people than ever before and it is your generosity that allows the continuation of their work. Thank you!



A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Why is it so hard to forgive, yet so easy to get even? Listen to John the Baptist in today's gospel and repent of the anger and ugly feelings which block your ability to forgive. This Christmas give a gift which makes a difference. Give forgiveness.

CHRISTMAS OPLATKI

Oplatki, or Christmas Wafers, are now available in the office.

The wafer, bearing a simple design commemorative of Christ's birth, is broken by the head of the family and distributed to each member at the Christmas Vigil meal. A simple prayer for God's grace and the welfare of the present and absent members of the family is said as the wafer is distributed.

Just stop in the office during regular business hours to pick up a package of Christmas Wafers along with information about this tradition and suggestions for the prayer. The donation is \$3.00.



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SCRIP PROGRAM

Scrip Cash and Carry is available in the School Office.

For your safety, **please use the walk up window next to the principal's office to purchase your Scrip. It is currently available Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 2:20pm.**



You can also use the Scrip "PrestoPay" feature that provides electronic delivery options (i.e. electronic credit to spend online or refill a merchant's card that you already have in your possession). Questions about PrestoPay can be directed to the Scrip program coordinator.

Thank you for supporting SSCD School through your participation in the Scrip Program.

Remember to place your orders for Christmas delivery by December 13th!

SAINT VINCENT DePAUL WEEKLY FOOD DONATION

Food Donation next Sunday, **December 13 - Macaroni & Cheese**

Thank you for your continued support.

SAINT VINCENT DePAUL VOLUNTEERS Saturday, December 12 -

Pete & Jennifer Renne and Sharon Juart

PRAYER CHAIN

To add a name to the Prayer Chain, call Pat Rougeux, 938-4464 or Anna Smochek, 427-2456.

If you are unable to reach either of them, you may call the office weekdays 9am - 4pm.

OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you for your continued support throughout this unusual time.

One way for you to easily support our parish is through on-line giving. There is a link for you to access this on our parish website, sscdchurch.com.

If you prefer to mail your offertory envelopes to the office, drop them in the mail slot in the breezeway, or put in the collection basket at church, please continue to do so. Thank you!



For the benefit of those who are unable to, or who are concerned about returning to Mass at this time, SSCD is live streaming Mass twice a week. Look for this graphic on our parish website, sscdchurch.com, and click the link on Fridays at 9am and Sundays at 11am to join.

If you have any questions, just call the office.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Anyone wishing to make a donation toward the cost of the flowers for Christmas may do so anytime between now and Christmas.



There is an envelope in your packets for this purpose. If you are making your donation in memory of a loved one, just write his/her name on the envelope. A list will be posted in church on Christmas.

SANCTUARY CLEANERS THIS WEEK

SSCD - Bob Henretta, Katie Roberts, Mary Wiesinger, Rita Zenzi.

St. Anthony - Freda Martino, Julie Mondì

CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

Keeping God's Children Protected & Safe:

The safe environment training of our children and youth is a key component in the Policy for the Protection of Children. Each year our schools and parishes are mandated to provide this training to all youth in Catholic school and parish programs. Since 2003 over 200,000 children have received age-appropriate abuse prevention education.

The Diocese maintains a working relationship with agencies in each of our 13 counties to provide training for our youth in schools and parishes. In addition, the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth maintains a media library containing videos for schools and parishes to provide child abuse prevention education. From 2016-19 over 31,000 parents have also received child abuse prevention education.

To see what the diocese is doing to help maintain safe environments for children and youth, visit <https://www.eriercd.org/childprotection/>

CASH GIVEAWAY

Home & School Association is sponsoring
“Warm Winter Winnings”

a 50/50 Cash Giveaway.

Tickets are just \$5 each and the prize will be 50% of all ticket sales **with a maximum payout of \$15,000 if all tickets are sold!**

The drawing will be held at school on the first day of Winter,

December 21, 2020, at 2:30pm.

Tickets are available at the church and school offices, or call 938-6540.

All proceeds will go directly to the support of our school.



Download **FORMED** at no cost to you:

- Go to formed.org/signup
- Select our parish
- Register with your name and email address
- Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK December 6, 2020

WATCH **GUADALUPE: THE MIRACLE AND THE MESSAGE**
As we celebrate the patroness of the Americas this week, enjoy this film narrated by Jim Caviezel that walks us through our Mother's miraculous appearance to Juan Diego—an encounter that has converted millions.



To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

A voice cries out:
In the desert prepare the way of the LORD!
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!
(Is 40:3)

PSALM:

Lord, let us see your kindness,
and grant us your salvation. (Ps 85)

SECOND READING:

The day of the Lord will come like a thief,
and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar
and the elements will be dissolved by fire,
and the earth and everything done on it will be found
out. (2 Pt 3:10)

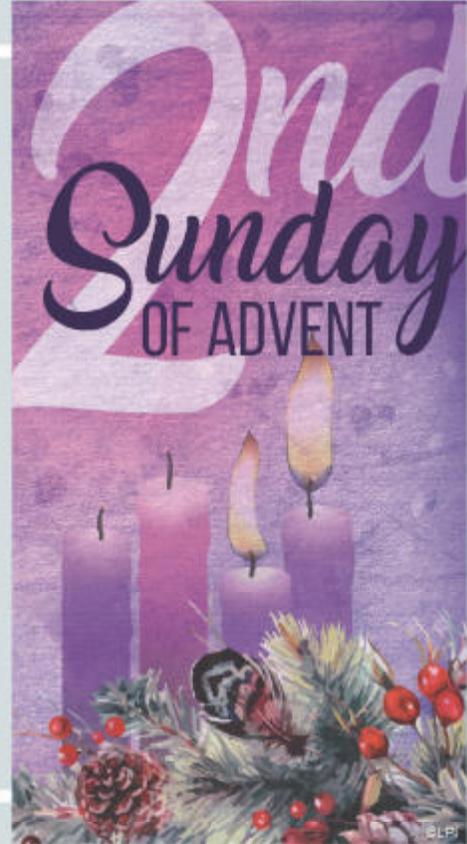
GOSPEL:

"One mightier than I is coming after me.
I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs
of his sandals.
I have baptized you with water;
he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." (Mk 1:7b-8)

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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 6, 2020

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent
Monday: St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Tuesday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Wednesday: St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
Friday: St. Damasus I, Pope
Saturday: Our Lady of Guadalupe
Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent



REFLECT

FIRST READING:

Five hundred years before the birth of Christ, Isaiah prophesied these words of comfort and hope to the Israelites captive in Babylon. What would bring comfort and hope to you in this season of Advent?

SECOND READING:

Today we hear how Peter challenged those in his day who denied that Christ would return. Peter argued that our human timeline is not God's timeline. How do you reason with people today who deny the fundamentals of our faith?

GOSPEL:

Mark opens his Gospel by presenting the words and activities of John the Baptist in the context of fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy heard in our first reading. Why do you think connecting Isaiah to John the Baptist was important to Mark and his community?

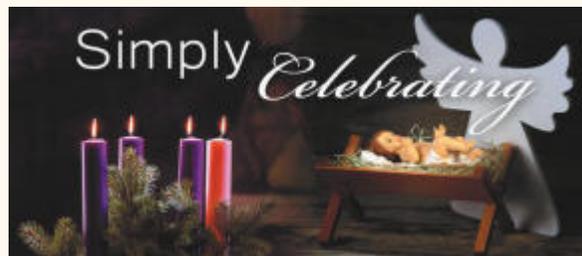
**Prayer in Time
of Pandemic**

Lord Jesus,
You came to bring salvation
to our world. You humbled
yourself to accept death on a
cross. Be with us as we
confront the spread of the
coronavirus with courage
and hope. Be present to the
sick and to those who
accompany them
in their suffering.
Strengthen our medical
professionals and caregivers;
comfort families who are
separated from one another.
Protect those who
are at risk of the virus
in their work.

Grant wisdom to our civic
officials and perseverance to
scientists. Spare us from the
ravages of this illness and
console us in our uncertainty
and fear.

Unite us in hope, enlighten
us in faith, and give us the
grace as a Church
to love one another
as You have loved us.
Through the intercession of
our Heavenly Mother,
we make this prayer as we
place our trust in You.
Amen.

Imprimatur, April 8, 2020
The Most Reverend Lawrence T.
Persico, J.C.L., Bishop of Erie



**Resources for Advent and Christmas
offered by the Diocese of Erie
to help you celebrate the season
in a year like no other**

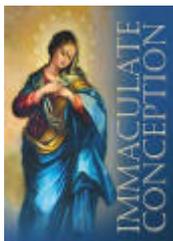
Did you know there are Christmas carol
sing-alongs online you can enjoy with friends
and family over Zoom? Were you aware of the
“Spread the Love” campaign created by the
Diocese of Erie’s *Faith* magazine, complete with
templates for writing letters to loved ones or to
those seeking help at various charitable
organizations over the holidays? Are you
interested in a listing of all the Masses being
offered in parishes and via livestream in the
diocese on Christmas Eve and Christmas day?

These resources and more are now
available at **Simply Celebrating**, a new micro-site
launched by the Diocese of Erie to help people
fill Advent and Christmas with meaningful and
fun activities in a year like no other.

Find it at www.eriecd.org/christmas.html.

**FEAST OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

The Mass on Tuesday,
December 8th, the Feast of the
Immaculate Conception, will be
at 9am. This Mass will be live
streamed for those who are unable
to attend. Just click the link on our
parish website, sccdchurch.com.



**WEEKLY OFFERTORY ANALYSIS
November 29, 2020**

Combined Church Offertory	
<i>Envelopes sent</i>	721
<i>Adult Envelopes Returned</i>	135
Adult	\$5,121.10
Holy Day	\$20.00
Christmas	20.00
Children	\$7.00
Loose	\$173.00
Monthly	\$180.00
Total	\$5,521.10
<i>Weekly Goal</i>	\$8,000.00
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$2,478.90)
Accumulated(+/-) Goal	\$24,502.82 <i>Under goal</i>

**Catholic Services Appeal 2020
Combined Report**

2020 Diocesan Assessment - \$74,662.00	
Total Parish Goal - \$124,662.00	
Pledged Amt:	\$85,920.00
Paid on Pledge:	\$80,956.45
Unpaid Pledges:	\$4,963.55
Unpledged Donations:	\$16,264.53
Collected to Date:	\$97,220.98

Readings for the Week of December 6, 2020

- Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/
2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
- Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is
35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
- Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/
Mt 11:28-30
- Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/
Mt 11:11-15
- Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/
Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt
13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-
47
- Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is
61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

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