

4th *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 19

4:30 p.m. Rita Juart -- Rose Day

Sunday, December 20

8:00 a.m. Special Intention for Lena VanDyke --
Rob, Deb, and Annisce

11:00 a.m. Frank J. Manco, Jr. -- Patty Manco

Monday, December 21

8:00 a.m. Christine Ingros -- Bill & Jean Farcus

Tuesday, December 22

8:00 a.m. Parishioners

Wednesday, December 23

8:00 a.m. Evelyn Miller --
Jean Ann, Stefanie, Alicia, & Jenny

Christmas Eve:

4:30 p.m. Polly Hallman -- Family
6:30 p.m. Intention of the Celebrant

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Morning:

8:00 a.m. Rosemary Esposito and Deceased of
Joseph & Julia Esposito Family -- Estate
10:00 a.m. Marge Murdock -- Pete & Elaine Pape

Saturday, December 26

4:30 p.m. Todd M. Covert -- Mickey & Mary Lou Barilar

Sunday, December 27

8:00 a.m. John "Jake" Capozzoli --
Jeanne & Bobby McAllister
11:00 a.m. Anthony "Zab" Constantino -- Family



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.



Be it done unto me according to your word

Dear Parishioners,

When the prophets of Israel spoke of God's intervention in human history, they imagined it as another thunderous event like Exodus or Mount Sinai. No one imagined that it would be an event so hidden in ordinariness as the conception of a child.

There are many stories in world literature about the disappointment of expectation when the reality appears. The first play I ever saw in a theatre was called *Professor Tim*. The main character was an elderly and wealthy relative whose return from America was eagerly awaited by his family in Ireland. Their disappointment was extreme when he arrived. He staggered around day after day with a whiskey bottle, making caustic remarks about everybody. He was quickly ostracized by everyone (but perhaps there was one exception, probably a local down-and-out; I can't remember). At the end of the play he suddenly revealed that it was all an elaborate game to find out what they were really like. He disinherited the lot of them, and left all his wealth, I suppose, to the one person who didn't reject him.



All such stories have some resonance of the Incarnation. Some great religious happening on a mountain-top or in the skies would compel your attention; it would impress you greatly but would not sift your spirit or test your depth. It would match your expectation and would, therefore, not bring you to a new awareness. It would be all 'out there', and to that extent only a spectacle. We have a great hankering for religious visions and transparent messages, even long after all the 'moving statues' have stopped appearing to move. Our religious sensibility has been deeply affected by television and the cinema. But the Incarnation comes closer to us than any spectacle; it comes behind the eye, so to speak.

In Cistercian monasteries, Monks have many choral Offices throughout the day, three of them being at 6am (not the first of the day!), noon and 6pm. As they stand in choir, waiting, facing the altar, the Angelus bell is rung, the Monks stand there in silence for a couple of minutes, as they contemplate "The Word became flesh - *this* flesh." The Word entered our world silently, unobserved. "When peaceful silence lay overall, and night had run the half of her swift course, down from the heavens, from the royal throne, leapt your all-powerful Word" (Wisdom 18:14-15).

In Nazareth the Catholics indicate Mary's house as the place of the Annunciation, while the Greek Orthodox indicate the site of the village well. Nobody knows where it took place, but the symbolism of both places is very affecting. The kitchen and the village well are the most ordinary places in a most obscure village. "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip asked. Yes, the greatest of all.

God Bless!
Msgr. J. Riccardo



Rest In Peace

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

David L. Johnson, brother of Donna Lorelli of our parish; and Joseph F. Glatt, brother of Helen Klingensmith of our parish, both of whom died last week. Please keep them and their families in your prayers. May their souls rest in peace.

CHRISTMAS OPLATKI

Oplatki, or Christmas Wafers, are 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.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Two important lessons in today's gospel speak to anyone who has ever felt afraid or uncertain; stressed or confused. No matter what is happening in your family, remember, "The Lord is with you." The angel reminds us, "Do not be afraid" for "nothing is impossible with God".

MUSIC AND PRAYERS AT MASS

Since we are not currently able to have our books in the pews, we are providing sheets with the hymns and prayers for Mass for your use.

Please pick one up from the table when you come in and then either take it home with you or throw it away after Mass. Please do not return it to the table. They cannot be reused. Each person will then have access to an unused hymn sheet when they come in to church.



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SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

In addition to our regularly scheduled confessions, there will be one additional opportunity for you to receive the sacrament of Penance before Christmas.

This evening, Sunday, December 20th, from 6:30 - 7:30pm, Monsignor Riccardo, along with two additional priests, will be available in church to hear confessions. **Social distancing and Masks are required.**

Christmas Mass
Schedule

****Christmas Eve****
4:30 and 6:30pm

**** Christmas Morning ****
8:00 and 10:00am

The 6:30pm and the 10:00am Masses will also be live-streamed for those unable to attend. Visit sscdchurch.com and click on the link to join in.

If you are attending in person please remember that social distancing and masks are required.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Anyone wishing to make a donation toward the cost of the flowers for Christmas may still do so.

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.

To be included on the list which will be posted in church on Christmas please have your donations in the office by this Tuesday morning, December 22.





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.

The Home & School Association
“Warm Winter Winnings”

50/50 Cash Giveaway
drawing will be held at school
this Monday

December 21, 2020, at 2:30pm.

If you still have tickets to turn in, please drop them off at the church or school office by this Monday morning December 21st.

Thank you for your support!

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

SAINT VINCENT DePAUL WEEKLY FOOD DONATION

Food Donation next Sunday, **December 27 - Boxed Scalloped Potatoes**

Thank you for your continued support.

PRAYER CHAIN

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

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

The Virgin is with child
and shall bear a son, and
she will call him
EMMANUEL

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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!

SANCTUARY CLEANERS THIS WEEK

SSCD - Jeanne Farcus, Barb Gresock,
Bertha Koza, Sharon Murray

St. Anthony - Freda Martino, Julie Mondri

SAINT VINCENT DePAUL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday, December 26 -

Rick and Mary Beth Bosak

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK December 20, 2020

WATCH CHRISTMAS IN ROME: A CELEBRATION OF THE NATIVITY
Nowhere celebrates the birth of the Savior like Rome. This Christmas, marvel at the Holy City's festive celebration of the coming of the child Jesus in Bethlehem.



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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.

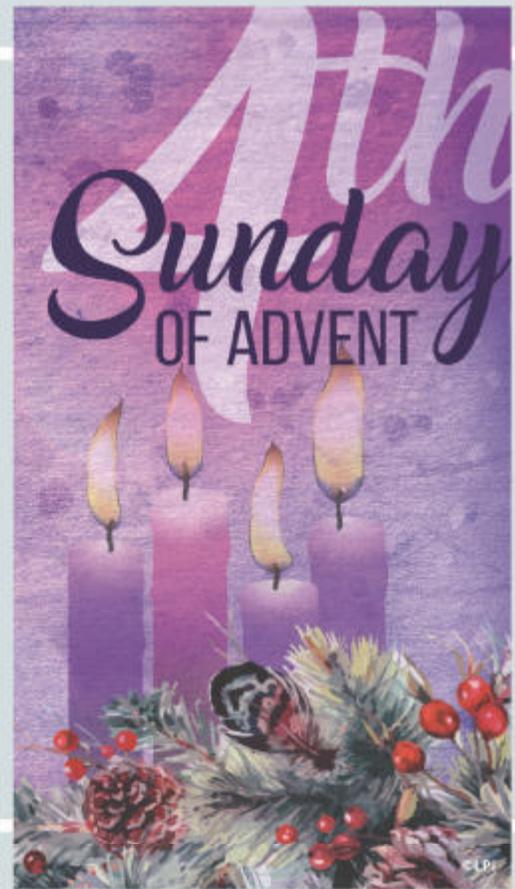
Thank you for supporting SSCD School through your participation in the Scrip Program.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL VOLUNTEER'S SCHEDULE

The new schedule for February, 2021 through January, 2022 is being prepared. If any of our current members wish to make any changes to their status, or if you know of dates when you will be unavailable to work in the Food Bank, you are asked to contact Sam Puleio at 938-7693 before 12/30/2020.



If you are not currently a member of our team but have about two Saturdays a year to help out in the Food Bank, please contact Sam Puleio to be put on the schedule. Thank you!



REFLECT

FIRST READING

Today's reading from Second Samuel narrates the context in which God establishes his covenantal promise to King David around the year 1000 B.C. In the birth of Jesus, God fulfills his covenant with David. What does this teach us about the idea of "salvation history?"

SECOND READING

Paul concludes his letter to the Romans with a hymn of praise to God for the long-awaited revelation that all are saved and justified through faith in Christ. In what ways are you praising God during this season of Advent?

GOSPEL READING

Today's Gospel reading records the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary of the upcoming birth of Christ. Mary's acceptance of God's will for her life ("May it be done to me according to your word.") models for all of us unconditional faith. How can we encourage others to embrace such faith?



MERRY
Christmas



**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.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

If we don’t have your email address, or if your address has recently changed, please contact us at sscdofc@comcast.net so we can get you in our address book.

We will never share your e-mail address. Help us to stay in touch with you!

OFFERTORY FIGURES

Please note that, due to an early deadline for publishing this week’s bulletin, the figures listed below are current only through December 6th.

WEEKLY OFFERTORY ANALYSIS December 6, 2020		Catholic Services Appeal 2020 Combined Report	
Combined Church Offertory		2020 Diocesan Assessment - \$74,662.00	
<i>Envelopes sent</i>	721	Total Parish Goal - \$124,662.00	
<i>Adult Envelopes Returned</i>	156		
Adult	\$8,824.00	Pledged Amt:	\$85,920.00
Holy Day	\$481.00	Paid on Pledge:	\$81,231.45
Christmas	\$345.00	Unpaid Pledges:	\$4,688.55
Children	\$15.00	Unpledged Donations:	\$16,930.55
Loose	\$223.00	Collected to Date:	\$98,162.00
Monthly	\$310.00		
Total	\$10,198.00		
<i>Weekly Goal</i>	\$8,000.00		
Surplus (Deficit)	\$2,198.00		
Accumulated(+/-) Goal	\$22,304.82 Under goal		

Readings for the Week of December 20, 2020

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66
Thursday: *Morning*: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79
Friday: *Vigil*: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25. *Night*: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14. *Day*: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14
Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22
Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

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