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Ss. Cosmas & Damian Parish

616 W. Mahoning St., Punxsutawney, PA 15767

814-938-6540

www.sscdchurch.com

Mass Intentions for This Week

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

Monday, December 28

8:00 a.m. Paul Starry -- John & Eileen Quatroche

Tuesday, December 29

8:00 a.m. Matthew Bembenick -- Murajda Family

Wednesday, December 30

8:00 a.m. James Jose -- Vilkinofsky Family

Thursday, December 31

8:00 a.m. Kevin Hopkins --
Bill & Stephanie Sandy

Friday, January 1, 2021

9:00 a.m. Parishioners

Saturday, January 2

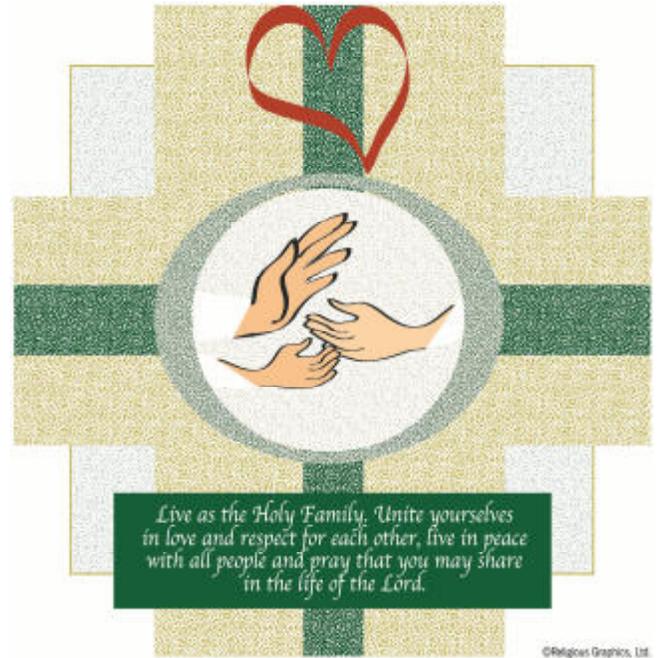
8:00 a.m. Deborah Neidrick -- LuAnn Rotolo

4:30 p.m. Mary Margret Lovette --
Tom & Martha Farabaugh

Sunday, January 3

8:00 a.m. Michael Pape -- Tom & Nancy Wise

11:00 a.m. Elsie Hettish -- Rose Ishman & 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.



JESUS, MARY, JOSEPH
pray for us!

*Master, now you are dismissing your servant
in peace, according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."*



Dear Parishioners,

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

"The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him." This shows that they had no hindsight; they thought of themselves in every way as normal people. This is their connection with us. Had they thought themselves special from birth, they would be as distant from us as a royal family. But we see them following the ordinary custom of presenting the child in the Temple, and their offering is the offering of the poor.

When something is actually happening, we have no hindsight on it. Of course, we see things more clearly with hindsight; hindsight is always 20/20, someone said. But in a way it can be a false and garish light. It judges people in the light of events that they could not have known about; it allows them no future, no development, because we see their future already present in everything they do and say. It flattens out their life like a sheet of paper on which everything is visible simultaneously.

It was the hindsight of the Resurrection, of course, that enabled the disciples to see the life of Jesus in a new light. But this new light of faith did not and was never meant to nullify his earthly life. The early heresies of Docetism and Monophysitism fell into this very trap. Trace elements of these early heresies lived on in mainline theology, and many theologians of the past would have held that Jesus knew all human languages and every event in future history. If that were the case he could hardly be said to be like us in all things but sin: "We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). This tendency can be seen in some popular devotions, and we have to be careful lest while stressing the divinity of Christ we diminish his humanity and turn the events of his life into a melodrama. The teaching of the Church is that he is fully divine and fully human.

(Continued on next page)

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC FAMILY OF THE PUNXSUTAWNEY AREA

(Continued from previous page)

It is our family that makes and keeps us human. We were welded into it before we were born; it is our anchor in human history. Scholars believe that the gospel accounts (in Matthew and Luke) of Jesus' childhood were not in the original form of the gospels but were added on at an early stage because they were needed to keep the story of Jesus anchored in this life.

In the West we tend to think of the family as the 'nuclear family': father, mother and child. Then we project this onto the family of Jesus. But an Eastern family, even to this day, comprises a hundred people or more (this is how Jesus managed to get lost in the Temple). In today's first reading, Abram complained to God of having no children. Then "God brought him outside and said, 'Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.... So shall your descendants be.'" Nothing about a nuclear family.

Jesus too was part of an extended family. But that physical family was nothing compared to the spiritual family of disciples through the ages and through the whole world. We all have our part in extending it. Every time we extend a hand to a neighbor or a stranger, we are extending that great family. With legitimate hindsight we can see his spiritual family continuing to extend till it includes the whole world.

God Bless!

Msgr. J. Riccardo

Our Christmas preparations and celebration were the work of so many and I would like to thank everyone for your time and talents.



Special thanks to our choir director Toie Neal, our organists, and cantors whose beautiful music added so much to our Masses.

Thank you to our maintenance staff, Dan Prutzal and Mike Gmys, along with Ben Presloid, who spent many hours on both our inside and outside decorations. Their hard work and talents have made our celebration of Christmas even more beautiful.

And a note of thanks to all those who have sent cookies and other Christmas goodies to the rectory. I can assure you that I have enjoyed them all! Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

If we have inadvertently forgotten someone, please know that you are appreciated.

FIRST FRIDAY

Our normal First Friday Adoration will not be held this Friday, January 1st.

Mass for the Solemnity of Mary will be on Friday morning at 9am.

Due to an early bulletin publishing deadline,
the winner of
The Home & School Association
"Warm Winter Winnings"

50/50 Cash Giveaway
will be announced in the January 3rd Bulletin.
Home & School thanks you for your support!

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

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.

SAINT VINCENT DePAUL VOLUNTEERS Saturday, January 2 -

Frank & Julie Mondy and Gina Bryant



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.

OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you for your continued support throughout this most 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!

YEARLY CONTRIBUTIONS

The accounting year for contributions will end on December 31st. If you wish to have your contributions posted for 2020, please have all your envelopes and/or contributions in by that time.

SANCTUARY CLEANERS THIS WEEK

SSCD - Debbie Rougeux, Pat Rougeux,
Kim Kopas, Karen Burkett
St. Anthony - Freda Martino, Julie Mondini

MARIANNA'S HOAGIES AND PIZZA

Our school is taking orders for their next Marianna's Hoagies and Pizza sale.



There are several varieties of 14" hoagies and 12" pizzas to choose from. Cost of each item is just \$8.50.

Orders must be in by Wednesday, January 20 and pick-up will be on Friday January 29th.

Call or stop in the school office to place your order. All proceeds benefit our school. Thank you for your support!

SAINT VINCENT DePAUL WEEKLY FOOD DONATION

Food Donation next Sunday, **January 3rd - Rice.**

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.

RECTORY OFFICE

The office will be closed on Friday of this week for the New Years holiday.

We wish you all a happy and healthy New Year!

A graphic for the "FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK" dated December 27, 2020. It features the "FORMED NOW!" logo and text about celebrating the life of St. Stephen. A "LEARN" button is visible on the left. At the bottom, it says "To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish." Below the graphic, there is a call to action to download FORMED at no cost and a list of steps to get started.

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



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!



CHILDREN'S OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2021 offering envelopes for children are available in the office.

If you would like for your child to have envelopes, just call or stop in the office.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

The gospel today shows Mary and Joseph weren't 'perfect' parents. If you have ever been 'amazed' and 'astonished' at what came out of your child's mouth, then you are in good company. If there were times you 'didn't understand' your children or felt 'anxious' about their behavior so did Mary and Joseph. Parenting is tough but it is also the stuff of holiness.

SOUP SALE

To help get us through these cold winter days, SSCD school will be having a weekly homemade soup sale!



The January soup menu:

- Jan 8 – Chicken Noodle Soup
- Jan 15 – Italian Wedding Soup
- Jan 22 – Ham, Cabbage & Bean Soup
- Jan 29 - Stuffed Pepper Soup

Cost is \$5 per quart. Pick-up will be on Fridays outside of the school office - 7:30am – 9am.

Preordering is recommended.

****Call to Preorder 814-938-4224****

Thank you for your support of this school fundraiser!

A New Year's Prayer

Gracious God,

As a new year begins, we place our trust in you.

May the time to come bring us closer to recognizing our need to love and cherish one another.

May those in power understand the importance of cultivating peace and bringing an end to war.

May those who struggle with disease, loss, poverty, and despair find light in the midst of their struggles and suffering.

And may we grow stronger in our desire to imitate the love and compassion of Jesus Christ, your Son, in whom our hope abides.

Amen.

**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

NOTE OF THANKS

We extend a big thank you to Smith Hauling, Inc. of Punxsutawney for their help with our recently completed roofing project on the church sacristy.

In order to resurface the flat roof over the sacristy, the large A/C units had to be removed and then set back in place by crane. Smith Hauling handled that part of our project and we are very appreciative of their generous donation of time, equipment, and expertise. Thank you!



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 add you to 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 13th.

WEEKLY OFFERTORY ANALYSIS December 13, 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>	144		
Adult	\$5,104.05	Pledged Amt:	\$85,920.00
Holy Day	\$762.00	Paid on Pledge:	\$81,556.45
Christmas	\$13,135.00	Unpaid Pledges:	\$4,363.55
Children	\$5.00	Unpledged Donations:	\$17,274.65
Loose	\$131.00	Collected to Date:	\$98,831.10
Monthly	\$410.00		
Total	\$19,547.05		
<i>Weekly Goal</i>	\$8,000.00		
Surplus (Deficit)	\$11,547.05		
Accumulated(+/-) Goal	\$10,757.77 <i>Under goal</i>		

Readings for the Week of December 27, 2020

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

Monday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/
Mt 2:13-18

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/
Lk 2:22-35

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-
40

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/
Jn 1:1-18

Friday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/
Lk 2:16-21

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/
Jn 1:19-28

Next 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

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