



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

- Mt 2:10-11

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

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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, January 2, 2021

4:30 p.m. Mary Margaret 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

Monday, January 4

8:00 a.m. Patricia Wehrle -- Emilia Tartaglia

Tuesday, January 5

8:00 a.m. Parishioners

Wednesday, January 6

8:00 a.m. Kevin T. Vilella -- Jean Buterbaugh

Thursday, January 7

8:00 a.m. Anthony Caridi -- Barilar Family

Friday, January 8

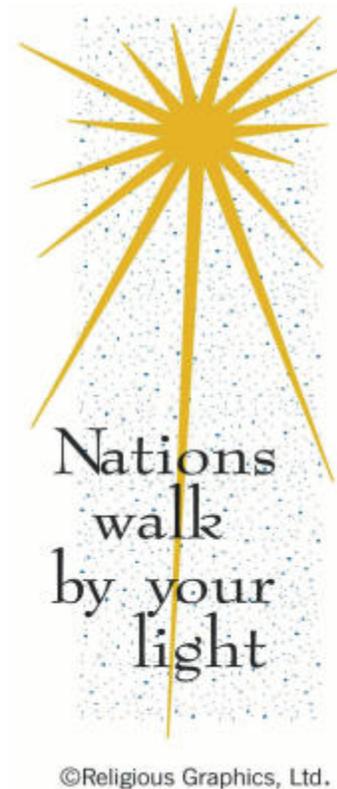
9:00 a.m. Mary Lou Brandon -- LuAnn Rotolo

Saturday, January 9

4:30 p.m. Margie Good -- Vanyo Family

Sunday, January 10

8:00 a.m. Parishioners
11:00 a.m. Carole Saldana --
Mickey & Mary Lou Barilar



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.



accept our gifts also, o LORD



Dear Parishioners,

The Bible realized from the start that the God of Israel was not a tribal God only concerned with his chosen people. He was the God of Creation, the God of the Universe, who sustained and cared for all the peoples of the earth.

That is the spirit of the first reading from Isaiah for this remarkable feast of Epiphany. The prophet portrays God's people Israel as a "light to the nations," a light reflective of the "glory of the Lord that shines upon you." That light draws the nations out of darkness, and they come to share with Israel the light of God's radiant beauty. The responsorial Psalm 72 echoes the same expansive vision: "Lord, every nation on earth will adore you!"

The question is how to balance the sense of identity that is essential for any family or people with an openness and spirit of respect and welcome to those beyond our borders. If we develop feelings of arrogance about our own virtue or status and end up with contempt for those beyond our boundaries, then our identity has become warped.

The author of the book of Jonah sensed this in portraying the prophet Jonah as having contempt for those foreign Ninevites and becoming annoyed when God calls him to preach to those traditional opponents. Lo and behold, the Ninevites repent at Jonah's reluctant peaching. In the wryly humorous ending to the story, God chides Jonah for being depressed at his own success.

Of course, the key reading for this feast is the story of the Magi from Matthew's Gospel. These sky gazers from the east (in Nineveh's general direction, no less) come to Bethlehem to offer their gifts to the newborn king, Jesus. Ironically, they glimpse who Jesus is, while Herod and his Jerusalem court turn hostile.

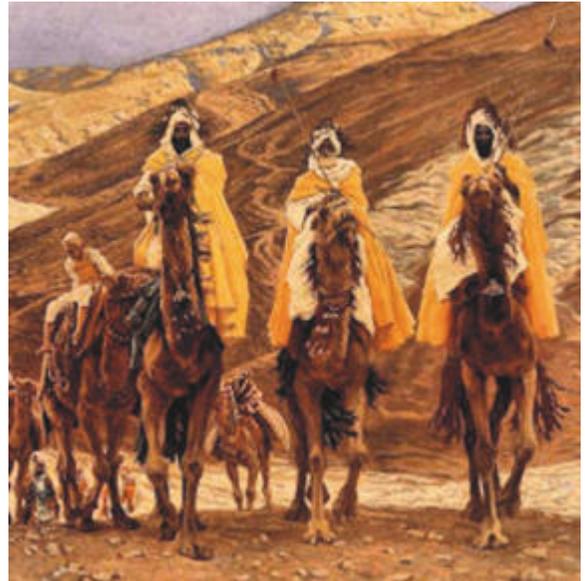
Of all the Gospel writers, Matthew is the one with a deep appreciation for the Jewish identity and heritage of Jesus and wants to communicate that to the readers of his narrative. At the same time, he wants to open up the vista of his Jewish Christian community to welcome the "nations," that is, the Gentiles who are coming into the community in growing numbers.

At the end of Matthew's Gospel, the apostles are sent to "all nations" extending the news of God's boundless love to the world and thereby echoing Isaiah's description of Israel as a "light to the nations."

We live in a time when we seem to be divided more than ever. There is mounting mistrust between races and nations and factions. There is less tolerance or appreciation for those seeking refuge in our midst. Political, economic and social factors driving our concern for boundaries can be complex and difficult to resolve.

But as Christians we cannot forget the deep conviction that the God who loved us into existence is the God of all humanity. Nor can we overlook that the mission of Jesus, built on the traditions of God's own people, was to bring the message of God's reconciling and healing love to all in need. That is the joy and challenge of the feast of the Epiphany.

God Bless!
Msgr. J. Riccardo





The lucky winner of
The Home & School Association
“*Warm Winter Winnings*”

50/50 Cash Giveaway

is Rosemary Cook of our parish.

The prize amounted to \$6,057.50.

Congratulations to the winner and a big thank you to
all who supported this school fundraiser!

As always, all proceeds will go directly to the
support of our school.



Rest In Peace

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Carole R. Schultz of our parish; Victor Belin of our parish; John Francis Gresock, brother of Andrew Gresock of our parish; William J. LaBelle, father of William and Jeffery LaBelle, both of our parish; Deborah Dubensky, sister of Marie Elkin of our parish, and Frank J. Molnar, brother of Marie Schreckengost of our parish, all of whom died last week.

Please keep them and their families in your prayers. May their souls rest in peace.

2021 CATHOLIC CALENDARS

Our thanks to McCabe Funeral Home of Punxsutawney for providing us with our 2021 Catholic Calendars.

The calendars are available on the entrance tables today. Please take just one per family until we are sure everyone has had an opportunity to pick one up.

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 9 -

Carol Bernat, Katie Irwin, and Karen Bugay

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!

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!

SANCTUARY CLEANERS THIS WEEK

SSCD - Bob Henretta, Katie Roberts,

Mary Wiesinger, Rita Zenzi

St. Anthony - Rhonda Parsons and Janie Lowry

SAINT VINCENT DePAUL WEEKLY FOOD DONATION

Food Donation next Sunday, **January 10th - Bisquick**

Thank you for your continued support.





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.

THANK YOU FROM ST. VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY

The members of the St. Vincent DePaul Society extend a heartfelt thank you to all those who have contributed so generously to the Society in the last several weeks and, indeed, throughout the year. Your generosity will allow us to continue to serve the needy in our community.



Contributions to the annual Thanksgiving collection from you, our parishioners, amount to \$8,050.00. An additional \$4,700.00 was received from various local organizations and individuals in our community. Thank you all for your very generous donations.

Thank you also to all the team members who have volunteered their time to help with our weekly food distributions.

Your donations of food, time, and monetary contributions are greatly appreciated. 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 Magi in today's gospel were led to Jesus by a star. Who are the stars your children follow? Don't let it be the tabloid stars. Resolve in this New Year to be the guiding star in the life of your children.

PRE CANA

In-person Pre Cana will not be offered this year at SSCD.

For information on how to complete Pre-Cana on-line, in the new Mentor-Cohort program, visit <https://www.eriercd.org/familylifeoffice/mentor-cohort.html>.

Cohorts will run the weeks of:

- April 25 - May 17, 2021
- October 25 - November 15, 2021

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.**

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

A promotional graphic for the FORMED program. At the top, it says "FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK January 3, 2021". Below that, it says "PREPARE THE WAY OF THE KING BY DR. SCOTT HAHN". To the left of this text is a vertical bar with the word "LISTEN". Below the main text, it says "As we celebrate the Epiphany, Dr. Scott Hahn explains how we should understand the three Magi and their gifts to the Lord!". To the right of this text is a small image of the three Magi. At the bottom, it says "To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish."

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

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!*

OFFERTORY STATEMENTS

End-of-year statements will be sent upon request. You can call or email the office or place the following slip in the collection basket and it will be sent to you.

2020 Offertory Statement Request

Name _____

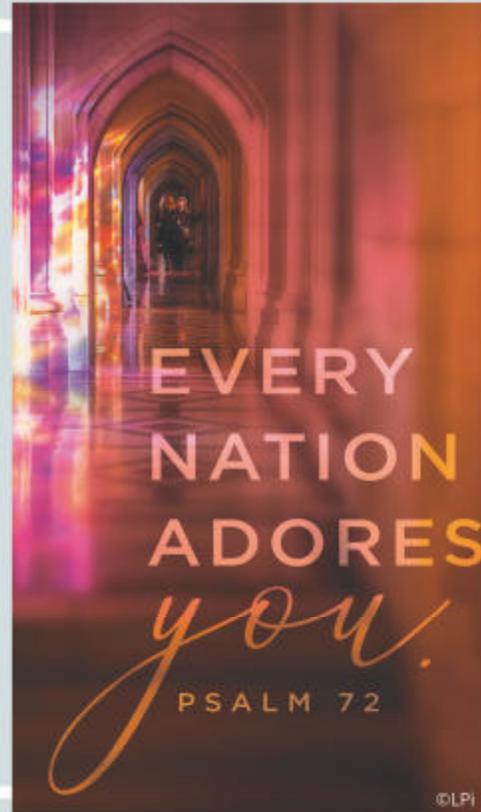
Address _____

Envelope Number _____

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.



REFLECT

FIRST READING

In late 6th century BC, the prophet Isaiah proclaimed an unimaginable future of glory for Israel in the wake of their return from seventy years of captivity in Babylon. What message of hope does our nation need today?

SECOND READING

Paul speaks of God's "revelation" to include Gentiles as "coheirs" and "copartners" with Jews in the divine promise fulfilled in Christ Jesus. How welcoming are you to those you consider outsiders?

GOSPEL READING

The magi's visit to discover the "newborn king of the Jews" caused great anxiety for the religious leaders of Jerusalem, including King Herod. Why do you think some people are not open to the good news of Jesus Christ?

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



OFFERTORY FIGURES

Because of an early bulletin deadline once again, the figures below are only current through December 20th.

The figures in the January 10th bulletin will be up-to-date, including Christmas.

CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Trafficking of youth is a form of modern slavery. It includes both sex trafficking and forced labor. Any child under age 18 engaged in commercial sex is a victim of sex trafficking, even if the youth’s participation is not forced or coerced. Be aware of recruiting tactics. Traffickers target victims through social media sites, telephone chat lines, afterschool programs, at shopping malls, bus depots, clubs/bars or through friends and acquaintances.

To help protect your child, ask questions about your child’s friends, monitor their computer use and know where he/she hangs out.

If you suspect a case of Child Sex Trafficking you can call 1-800-THE-LOST or make a report at www.CyberTipline.org. Visit <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/> to see what the diocese is doing to help maintain safe environments for children and youth.

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!



WEEKLY OFFERTORY ANALYSIS December 20, 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>	137		
Adult	\$5,412.00	Pledged Amt:	\$85,920.00
Holy Day	\$315.00	Paid on Pledge:	\$81,576.45
Christmas	\$685.00	Unpaid Pledges:	\$4,343.55
Children	\$9.00	Unpledged Donations:	\$17,571.65
Loose	\$68.00	Collected to Date:	\$99,148.10
Monthly	\$770.00		
Total	\$7,259.00		
<i>Weekly Goal</i>	\$8,000.00		
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$741.00)		
Accumulated(+/-) Goal	\$11,498.77 Under goal		

Readings for the Week of January 3, 2021

- 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
- Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]/ Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
- Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/ Mk 6:34-44
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf. 11]/ Mk 6:45-52
- Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 [cf. 11]/Lk 4:14-22a
- Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/ Lk 5:12-16
- Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30
- Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/ Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11 or Is 55:1-11 Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3])/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

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