

“BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SEEN
AND HAVE BELIEVED.” —JN 20:29

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

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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, April 10

4:30 p.m. Fred & Peg Roberts -- Morning Mass Friends

Sunday, April 11

8:00 a.m. Anthony Runco -- Wife & Son

11 :00 a.m. Vernie & Ed Stankovich --
Mike & Julie Quashnock

Monday, April 12

8:00 a.m. Parishioners

Tuesday, April 13

8:00 a.m. Thomas Hudock -- Mike & Tom

Wednesday, April 14

8:00 a.m. John & Rose Tote -- Iadonato Family

Thursday, April 15

8:00 a.m. Tony & Loretta Villella --
Nick & Barb Gresock

Friday, April 16

9:00 a.m. Mike & Pat Ruffner -- Pete & Joyce Betts

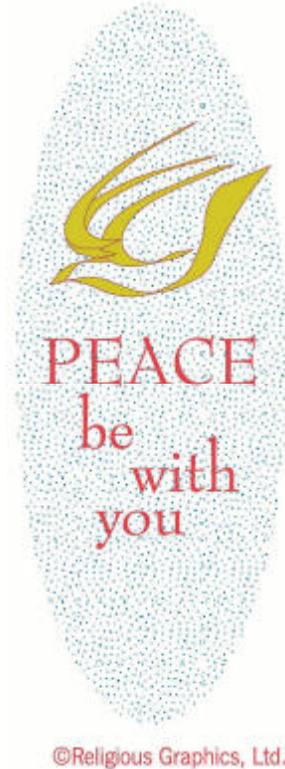
Saturday, April 17

4:30 p.m. Peter Bianco -- John & Pat Farcus

Sunday, April 18

8:00 a.m. Patsy Defelice -- Ben & Jennifer White

11:00 a.m. Mary & Tom Kotula --
Michael & Nancy Young



This Week

Sunday, April 11 -

11am Mass - Sacrament of Confirmation

Wednesday, April 14 -

10am - Bible Study - Meeting Room

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.

Dear Parishioners,

The Easter joy is always at work in our midst; dispelling our fears and doubts, leading us to grow stronger in the faith, assisting us to live out this faith in concrete signs through acts of charity and in all, making us to feel in full our victimhood of Divine Mercy for “humanity will not find peace until it turns trustfully to divine mercy.” May our daily experience of the mercy of God rejuvenate anew within us the joy of the mysteries we celebrate; Amen.



Every Second Sunday of Easter is known as Divine Mercy Sunday, a feast instituted by Pope Saint John Paul II on the occasion of the canonization of the Polish Saint Faustina Kowalska on the 30th of April 2000 to whom the Lord in a new way entrusted with the message of Divine Mercy. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is part of this great patrimony which has continued to change lives and lead millions of people to a renewed encounter with the mercy of God. Indeed, it is apt to celebrate the gift of Divine Mercy on the Sunday immediately after the Easter Sunday because in the Paschal events, we experience God’s greatest act of mercy who “to ransom a slave gave away His Son.” The Divine Mercy “is always a gratuitous act of our heavenly Father, an unconditional and unmerited act of love. Mercy is that concrete action of love that, by forgiving, transforms and changes our lives” (Misericordia et Misera, n. 2)

In the readings of today’s Eucharist, we see the many fruits of Divine Mercy at work; the Mercy which we experience in full in the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. One of the fruits of the experience of God’s mercy is love and love at work is charity. This was very clear in the Second Reading (I Jn 5:1-6) and in the First Reading (Acts 4:32-35) as the rays of charity continued to glow among the disciples that “none of their members was ever in want;” and as the disciples continued to witness to this love in the observance of God’s commandments. Another fruit of this unique experience of the divine is the ability to witness to this font of mercy. In this regard, the apostles, we were told, “Continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power.” And of course, a collective fruit to all those who have successfully experienced the Victimhood of Mercy of the Easter glory is unity of purpose, in heart and in soul; the unity that transforms us concretely into the Family of God. Our experience of the Divine Mercy springs within us the conviction to profess our faith wherever we are, and in which ever condition we find ourselves; this experience clears our doubt and leads us to exclaim like Thomas in the Gospel Reading (Jn 20:19-31) “my Lord and my God.” An encounter with the Divine Mercy brings us peace and leads us to be agents of peace. That same peace which Jesus bequeathed to His disciples “Peace be with you!” Inner peace is the sure lot of anybody who comes in contact with Divine Mercy. And finally, an experience of Divine Mercy brings within us the gift of the Holy Spirit Who is the principal agent in the Church’s exercise of the ministry of mercy. This is made manifest in the words of absolution during confession when the Priest says, “and sent the Holy Spirit amongst us for the forgiveness of sins.”

As we celebrate the free gift of God’s mercy to us, it is a great opportunity to renew within ourselves the superabundant mercy of God that never ceases and that is renewed for us every morning (Lam 3:22-23). This experience of Divine Mercy “while re-establishing the relationship of each person with God, also creates new relations of fraternal solidarity among human beings” for it is impossible to truly experience the mercy of God and not have a merciful countenance towards those around us. An experience of Divine Mercy makes us missionaries of mercy and that is what the Easter Joy is all about.

May you have a life-changing encounter with the Divine Mercy, and may this experience lead you to exude the fragrance of mercy wherever you find yourself. Happy Divine Mercy Sunday!

God Bless!
Msgr. J. Riccardo

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

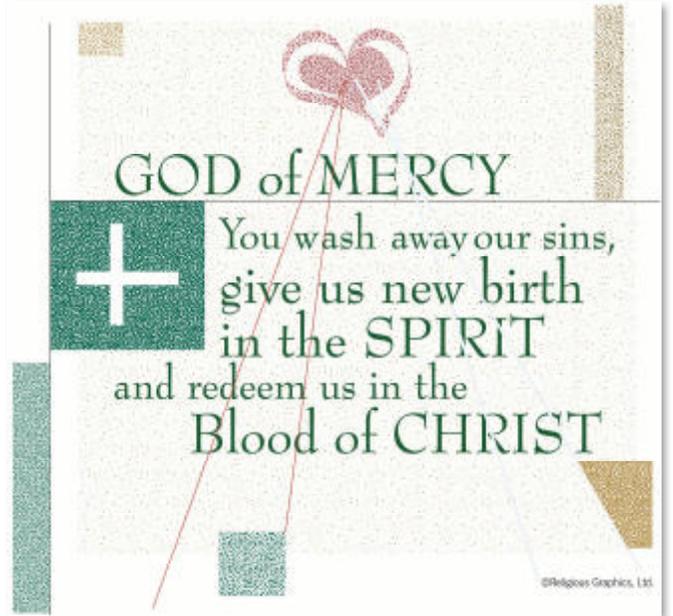
In today's gospel Jesus teaches, "Blessed are those who have not seen and believe." Accepting someone as they are, without demanding they prove themselves or meet our expectations, creates a rich relationship. Real mercy begins here.

REMEMBER TO DIAL 814 FOR LOCAL CALLS

Just a reminder that the new dialing procedure put in place by the PA Public Utility commission is now in effect.

The new system requires that all calls to the 814 area code and the new 582 area code - local and long distance - must be dialed using the area code plus the telephone number.

To call the rectory office, you now must use our 10 digit number, 814-938-6540.



OUR CEMETERIES

We are beginning to prepare both Calvary and Adrian-Anita Cemeteries for the summer season.

All artificial flowers must be removed at this time. Any artificial flowers remaining on the graves after April 15th will be removed as they are dangerous for mowing and not permitted during the mowing season.



OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you for your continued support throughout this past year.

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!

SCRIP PROGRAM

Join the Scrip Program and earn rebates of all your regular purchases and gift giving!

Scrip Cash and Carry is available in the School Office. Please use the walk up window next to the principal's office to purchase your Scrip, 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.



CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

A sincere thank you to all who have made a pledge or gift to the 2021 Catholic Services Appeal. If you have not yet made a commitment, it is not too late. Just drop your pledge card in the collection basket or send it to the office. Please remember that all gifts, regardless of the size, are important, needed, and appreciated.

Please do what you can. I am grateful for your prayers and support - especially in these extraordinary times. You can check the last page of the bulletin for pledges to date.



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.

SAINT VINCENT DePAUL WEEKLY FOOD DONATION

Food Donation next Sunday, **April 18 - Vegetable Soup**. Thank you for your support!

SAINT VINCENT DePAUL VOLUNTEERS Saturday, April 17 -

Margie Meenan, Cathy Smith, Sandy Kotula

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 your use at Mass.

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.

PRAYER CHAIN

To add a name to the Prayer Chain, call Pat Rougeux, 814-938-4464 or Anna Smoczek, 814-427-2456.

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



CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

Child Abuse Prevention Month: Be Vigilant-

It is vitally important that we are constantly vigilant concerning the behaviors of those who interact with children.

And we must always communicate our concerns to the appropriate parties. Sometimes this means communicating our safety concerns to our children. And sometimes this means communicating our concerns about seemingly inappropriate behavior to those who are in a position to intervene. Parents must also listen carefully to their children and observe both their children's activities and the behavior of older children and adults who interact with them. When children exhibit dramatic behavioral changes, adults must find out what caused the changes. Being aware of what's happening with our children means talking to, listening to, and observing them - at every opportunity.

*For particular questions you may call: **Cindy Zemic, Coordinator for the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth in the Diocese of Erie at 814-824-1195.***



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- 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

PRAY FOR PRIESTS IN DIOCESE OF ERIE

A monthly calendar is published, listing a priest of the Erie Diocese on each day. We are asked to remember that priest in our prayers for that particular day.

The calendar for April can be found on the Diocesan Website at www.eriercd.org and can also be found on the tables at the entrances of the church.

SUMMER MAINTENANCE HELP



Home for the summer? Need a part time job?

We have a position(s) open in our maintenance department for the summer.

If you are interested, please contact our Business Manager, Tony Bofinger at 814-938-6540, ext 214.



LECTORS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Lectors or Eucharistic Ministers wishing to be placed on the schedule for weekend Masses are asked to call the office, 814-938-6540, ext. 210.

We are currently scheduling on a week-by-week basis and will be happy to add your name to the list of those currently active in these ministries.

At this time, we are scheduling one Lector and just one Eucharistic Minister for each weekend Mass.

LIVE THE LITURGY
INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Alleluia! Forgiveness has risen from the grave! What a wonderful joy fills us today as we ponder the inexhaustible mercy of God. When experienced, we are moved to do all in our power to avoid sin and embrace the loving presence of our risen God. God stands ever ready to receive us and wants nothing more than for us to come home. How reluctant we are to believe this truth! We want proof, tangible evidence and absolute assurance that what we have been told is true. Jesus has risen from the dead and brings us peace. It is the gift of wholeness and holiness that is breathed upon us by God's life-giving and healing mercy. May the rays of love that flow from the heart of Christ pierce ours!

SANCTUARY CLEANERS THIS WEEK

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

St. Anthony - Susan Walker

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!

SPAGHETTI DINNER



St. Bernard Church, Falls Creek, Famous Spaghetti Dinner will be next Sunday, April 18, from 10am until sold out. Dinners are \$9 each, meatballs are \$.75 each and a quart of sauce is \$5.50. The format will be take-outs only; please bring your own container.

TWO EASY WAYS TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR PARISH!

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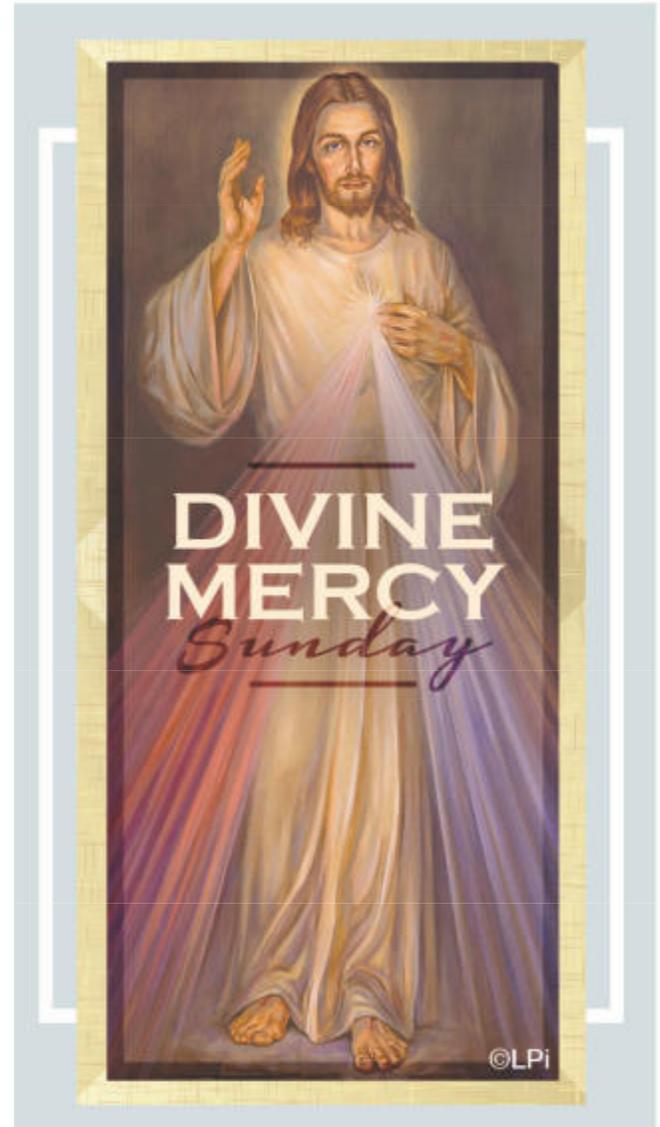


Prayer in Time of Pandemic

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



Blessed are they
 who have not seen
 and yet have believed.

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WEEKLY OFFERTORY ANALYSIS April 4, 2021		Catholic Services Appeal 2021	
Church Offertory		2021 Diocesan Assessment \$76,000.00	
<i>Envelopes sent</i>	715	Total Parish Goal \$126,000.00	
<i>Adult Envelopes Returned</i>	131		
Adult	\$6,568.00	Pledged Amt:	\$85,880.00
Holy Day	\$0.00	Paid on Pledge:	\$71,515.34
Easter	\$4,488.00	Unpaid Pledges:	\$14,364.66
Children	\$4.00	Unpledged Donations:	\$4,546.00
Loose	\$270.00	Collected to Date:	\$76,061.34
Monthly	\$735.00		
Total	\$12,065.00		
<i>Weekly Goal</i>	\$8,000.00		
Surplus (Deficit)	\$4,065.00		
Accumulated(+/-) Goal	\$8,397.19 <i>Under goal</i>		

Readings for the Week of April 11, 2021

Sunday: Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/
 1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-3

Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9 [cf. 11d]/
 Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 [1a]/
 Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [7a]/
 Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20 [7a]/
 Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [cf. 4abc]/
 Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 [22]/
 Jn 6:16-21

Next Sunday: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 [7a]/1
 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48

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