

“EVERYTHING WRITTEN ABOUT ME IN THE LAW  
OF MOSES AND IN THE PROPHETS AND PSALMS  
MUST BE FULFILLED.” —LK 24:44

3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

## **Ss. Cosmas & Damian Parish**

616 W. Mahoning St., Punxsutawney, PA 15767  
814-938-6540 [www.sscdchurch.com](http://www.sscdchurch.com)

## Mass Intentions for This Week

### 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

### Monday, April 19

8:00 a.m. Angelo Giavedoni -- Mike & Kim Horner

### Tuesday, April 20

8:00 a.m. Parishioners

### Wednesday, April 21

8:00 a.m. Deceased of the Farcus and Belott Families --  
John & Pat Farcus

### Thursday, April 22

8:00 a.m. Albert & Cecelia Dudas --  
SSCD Funeral Choir

### Friday, April 23

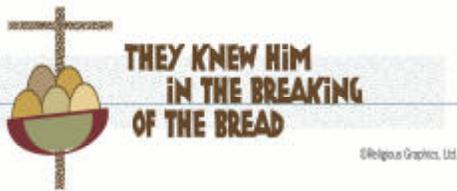
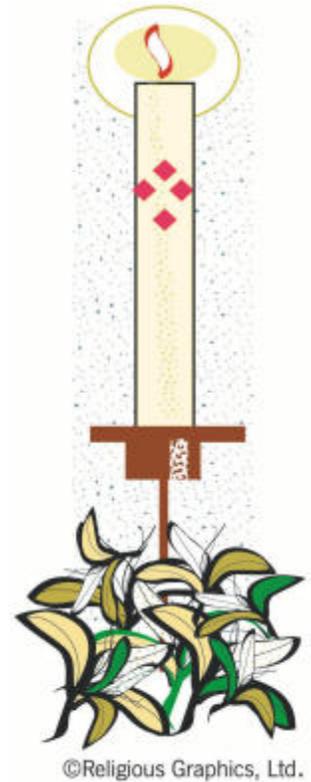
9:00 a.m. Dr. Jack Smelko -- Nick & Barb Gresock

### Saturday, April 24

4:30 p.m. Gertie Eggleston --  
C. D. of A., Court St. Rita #353

### Sunday, April 25

8:00 a.m. Parishioners  
11:00 a.m. Mary Fusco --  
C. D. of A., Court St. Rita #353



## The Week Ahead

### Wednesday, April 21 -

10:00am - Bible Study - Meeting Room

7:00pm - C. D. of A. - Meeting Room

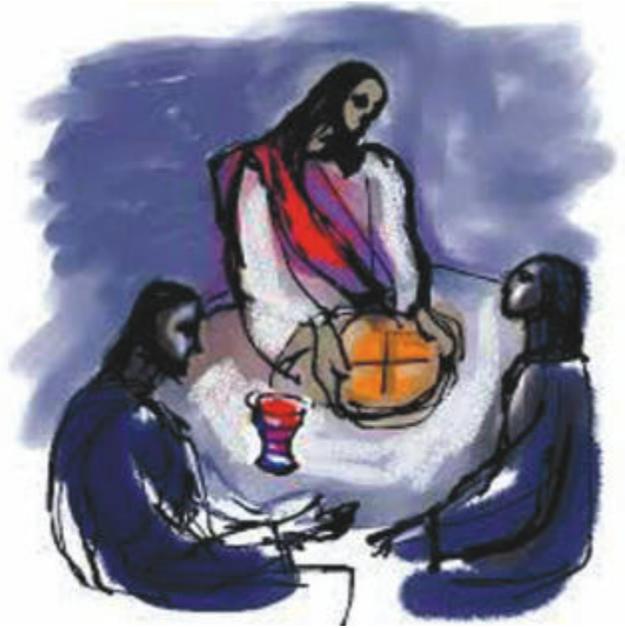
**T**he Church encourages frequent, even daily, Holy Communion, but if at any time we cannot go to Mass, in or out of this season of the coronavirus, we can still unite ourselves to the Eucharist by making a spiritual Communion. When we make an Act of Spiritual Communion, we express our faith in Christ's 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 disciples] told what had happened on the road, and how Jesus had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.*



*While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.*

The disciples thought they were seeing a ghost, and Jesus was at pains to assure them that he was no ghost, no projection. Ghosts don't say, "Have you anything here to eat?" If Jesus is not truly risen he is only a ghost. Ghosts are the past that didn't die properly. If Jesus did not truly die he is not truly risen. He had to die in the past so that he could be with us in the present, "the first-born from the dead." We too have to die to the past if we are to meet him where he is. "If we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his" (Romans 6:5).

When we can find no security in the present we look for it in the past. "The past at least is secure," said some failed politician. But while the past may give a feeling of security, it does not give security - because time is moving, not fixed. Or we look for security in the future. We are always looking for a railing to hold onto, because the ground under our feet is moving. I always feel we would prefer an un-resurrected Christ. He would be fixed and immovable, altogether more stable. We could own and control him. But he is risen, he cannot be owned, he is the vehicle of the Spirit which blows where it wills.

God "has restored the joy of our youth." Joy is there when we put ourselves fully into something. Small children, when they laugh, are all laughter; when they cry they are all sadness. But a little later we learn to drag ourselves along: half-way into things and no more: half in and half out, hovering like ghosts. If we walked like that we would resemble someone a hundred years old. When we walk freely we put *all* our weight on the forward foot; we entrust ourselves to the future and we leave the past behind. Ghosts don't do that; they don't walk, they don't do anything. We real human beings have to learn to go fully into everything we do and say and think, to 'die into' everything. Then we will know something about resurrection.

God Bless!  
Msgr. J. Riccardo

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

The apostles were afraid of Jesus until he ate with them and they touched him. In your family, the ordinary acts of eating together, touching, embracing not only confirm our love for each other, but also celebrate God's presence in your family.

These 'ordinary' moments contain the 'Extraordinary.'

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.



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.



*Rest In Peace*

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Robert Borrelli, brother of Ed Borelli of our parish, who died in the past week.

Please keep him and his family in your prayers. May his soul rest in peace.

**Do you remember**

the Parish Priest  
who heard your First Confession  
gave you First Holy Communion,  
helped you prepare for Confirmation?  
He was there again when you said: I do,"  
Made visits to you or a loved one  
while hospitalized, encouraged you  
in time of need.  
Our priests have been active in so many  
ways in our life even after retirement.

As the priest shortage increases,  
the number of retired priests will increase but  
not nearly as fast as their health care needs  
and other soaring retirement expenses.

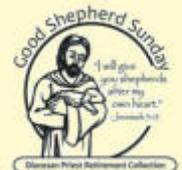
Good Shepherd Sunday  
is our opportunity to say thanks  
to our retired Erie diocesan priests  
for their many years of faithful service.  
Provide for them the same  
love, care and generosity  
they have provided for us for generations.

**Collection in our Parish is next weekend, April 24/25**

The collection for Retired Religious in December does not benefit our Diocesan priests.

Please prayerfully reflect this week on how you can best respond in support of the needs of our Diocesan Retired Priests. Use the special collection envelope for the Good Shepherd Collection that is in your bimonthly packet or use a plain envelope and indicate that it is for Good Shepherd.

Please place it in the collection basket next weekend or drop it off at the Parish Office. 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](http://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 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](http://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!



### SAINT VINCENT DePAUL WEEKLY FOOD DONATION

Food Donation next Sunday, **April 25 - Tuna**. Thank you for your support!

### SCRIP PROGRAM

Join the Scrip Program and earn rebates on 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.



### SAINT VINCENT DePAUL VOLUNTEERS

**Saturday, April 24** - Jay & Susan Lainey

### 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.

**FORMED**

PICK OF THE WEEK

April 18, 2021

WATCH

ECHO WITH BISHOP DONALD HYING

ECHO is a series of short and engaging videos that introduces fundamental Catholic teachings and provides an inspiring start to personal growth in the Faith. This beautiful work of cinematography is hosted by Bishop Donald Hying of Gary, Indiana.



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CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

**Child Abuse Prevention Month: The “Creating A Safe Environment”** training program is an integral component to the prevention effort in our diocese. The mandated program trains employees and volunteers in the warning signs of abuse and how to report suspected abuse of a minor. Since 2003 over 60,000 adults in the diocese have received the training to recognize and report child abuse. With the help of the safe environment training program, the faithful are guided and educated about the responsibility to keep God’s children protected and safe.

Visit <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/> to take the training program or learn what is required for employees and volunteers to work with children in diocesan parishes/schools/agencies.

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.

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](mailto: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!

PRAYER CHAIN

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

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



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.

SANCTUARY CLEANERS THIS WEEK

SSCD - Debbie Rougeux, Pat Rougeux,  
Kim Kopas, Karen Burkett.  
St. Anthony - Susan Walker



SPAGHETTI DINNER

St. Bernard Church, Falls Creek, Famous Spaghetti Dinner will be today, 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 take 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

**FIRST READING:**  
 The author of life you put to death, but God raised him from the dead; of this we are witnesses. (Acts 3:15)

—

**PSALM:**  
 Lord, let your face shine on us. (Ps 4)  
 Or Alleluia.

—

**SECOND READING:**  
 He is expiation for our sins, and not for our sins only but for those of the whole world. (1 Jn 2:2)

—

**GOSPEL:**  
 "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name." (Lk 24:46-47)

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WEEKLY OFFERTORY ANALYSIS April 11, 2021		Catholic Services Appeal 2021	
Church Offertory		2021 Diocesan Assessment \$76,000.00	
Envelopes sent	715	Total Parish Goal \$126,000.00	
Adult Envelopes Returned	155		
Adult	\$5,418.05	Pledged Amt:	\$87,880.00
Holy Day	\$0.00	Paid on Pledge:	\$73,821.44
Easter	\$2,000.00	Unpaid Pledges:	\$14,058.56
Children	\$6.00	Unpledged Donations:	\$4,818.00
Loose	\$153.00	Collected to Date:	\$78,639.44
Monthly	\$140.00		
Total	<b>\$7,717.05</b>		
Weekly Goal	\$8,000.00		
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$282.95)		
Accumulated(+/-) Goal	<b>\$8,680.14</b> <i>Under goal</i>		

**Readings for the Week of April 18, 2021**

- Sunday: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 [7a]/1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48
- Monday: Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30 [1ab]/Jn 6:22-29
- Tuesday: Acts 7:51—8:1a/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab [6a]/Jn 6:30-35
- Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a [1]/Jn 6:35-40
- Thursday: Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20 [1]/Jn 6:44-51
- Friday: Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/Jn 6:52-59
- Saturday: Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 [12]/Jn 6:60-69
- Next Sunday: Acts 4:8-12/Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29 [22]/1 Jn 3:1-2/Jn 10:11-18

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