

"I AM THE TRUE VINE, AND MY FATHER IS THE  
VINE GROWER." —JN 15:1

5<sup>TH</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, May 1

4:30 p.m. Jack Sisk -- Nick & Barb Gresock

### Sunday, May 2

8:00 a.m. Barbara Brink -- Family

10:00 a.m. Angela Skarbek -- Nick & Marcy Gianvito

### Monday, May 3

8:00 a.m. Parishioners

### Tuesday, May 4

8:00 a.m. Tommy Zettle -- Mom, Dad, Greg,  
Renee, Dawn, and Christopher

### Wednesday, May 5

8:00 a.m. John Astorino -- Pete & Elaine Pape

### Thursday, May 6

8:00 a.m. Deceased members of  
The Princess Marie Lodge

### Friday, May 7

9:00 a.m. Jimmy Imes -- Michele Imes

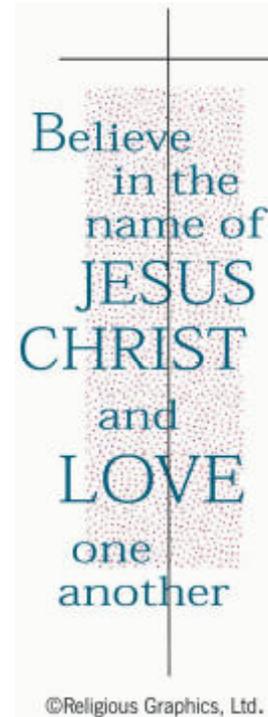
### Saturday, May 8

4:30 p.m. Kathy Zeok -- Diane Reasinger

### Sunday, May 9

8:00 a.m. Gerald J. Bach, Sr. -- Bach Family

10:00 a.m. Eileen North -- Angelo Ferrara and  
Henry Haverilla Family



## The Week Ahead

### Wednesday, May 5 -

10:00am - Bible Study - Meeting Room

### Thursday, May 6 -

6:00 pm - Bible Study - Meeting Room

### Friday, May 7 - First Friday

9:30 am - 4pm - Adoration of the Blessed  
Sacrament - Church

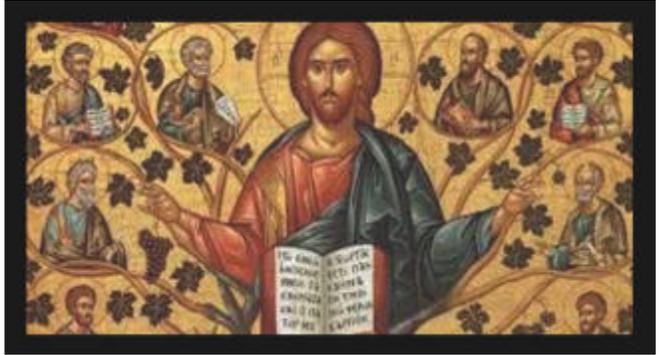
The Church encourages frequent, even daily, Holy Communion, but if at any time we cannot go to Mass, in or out of this season of the coronavirus, we can still unite ourselves to the Eucharist by making a spiritual Communion. When we make an Act of Spiritual Communion, we express our faith in Christ's 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:

*Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not*



*abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.*

In last Sunday's gospel reading Jesus was the good shepherd and we the sheep. Today's image expresses an even closer relationship: a vine and its branches. This is so close a relationship that you could say it is beyond relationship; it is identification. "I am the vine...you the branches." But a vine *is* all branches! It is not like a tree or a big shrub where you have a substantial trunk and a profusion of branches. The vine is just branches. He has identified himself with us. It is obvious that a branch cut off from the vine (or from any tree or shrub) will wither. In the case of the vine, not only is the branch destroyed but the vine itself is diminished. To destroy a branch is to destroy the vine in some measure; to cut off a brother or sister in Christ is to cut off Christ.

This is also the teaching of St Paul. Christ, he said, is the head and we are the body. "We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another" (Romans 12:4); "Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ" (1 Corinthians 12:12).

A favorite word in John's gospel and letters is 'abide' (or the rather colorless translation 'remain'): abiding in God, abiding in Christ, abiding in his word.... I counted thirty-seven. To abide is not to be a visitor, it is even more than being a friend, it is to be at home.

It seems that no image can go far enough in expressing our union with Christ and God. Meister Eckhart said, "If anyone put water in a barrel, the barrel would surround the water, but the water would not be *in* the barrel [i.e., it would not occupy the same space as the wood of the barrel], nor would the barrel be in the water: but the soul is wholly one with God....In spiritual things there is no separating of one from another."

I remember a magazine article some years ago, "After affluence, what? Individualism." It was ever only a dream, of course – one that the world is waking up from now. Nobody can really be an independent individual, least of all a wealthy person. Wealth does tend to separate people from one another, while poverty often brings them together. But then wealth traps people in a complex financial web with other people, a very caricature of closeness. The dream of individualism is just a bad dream. We depend on other people in a thousand ways. Our Christian faith celebrates this and reveals its ultimate depth. Even the Persons of the Trinity depend on one another. To live, through Christ, in the heart of that mystery is our destiny.

God Bless!  
Msgr. Riccardo

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.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Barbara Cackowski of our parish who died in the past week. Please keep her and her family in your prayers. May her soul rest in peace.

OUR CEMETERIES



We are currently preparing 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 will be removed as they are dangerous for mowing and not permitted during the mowing season.

CEMETERY MEMORIAL GARDENS

The gardens around the Mausoleum have become a beautiful addition to Calvary Cemetery. If you are considering a way to memorialize a loved one, may we suggest that you consider a donation of \$25.00 to be used for flowers in the gardens this year. The memorial is for one season and is available to anyone.

If you are interested in contributing to the memorial gardens this year, you can send your donations, along with the name of the person you wish to memorialize, to the rectory office. You can also use the "Cemetery Improvement" envelope which is in your packet. Just place your \$25 donation in the envelope and write the name of the person you wish to memorialize on the back.

A plaque listing the memorials will be placed in the window of the Mausoleum for the summer.



Friday of this week, May 7, is the first Friday of the month.

Confessions for the First Friday will be on Thursday following the 8am Mass.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on Friday, beginning after the 9am Mass until 4pm. Our special intention for this month will be for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.



Please plan to come and spend some time in adoration of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament on First Friday. Sign-up sheets are posted in church.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Like the vine grower in today's gospel, parents must "prune and cleanse" the branches in their family if their children are going to be rooted. Discipline, limits and setting goals are a necessary part of parenting so our children will grow and "bear fruit."



MUSIC AND PRAYERS AT MASS

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.



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 10am to join.

If you have any questions, just call the office.

### 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.

### 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 WEEKLY FOOD DONATION

Food Donation next Sunday, **May 9 - Ramen Noodles**. Thank you for your support!

### SAINT VINCENT DePAUL VOLUNTEERS

**Saturday, May 8 -**

Bernadette and Mike Horner.

Let us LOVE  
not in word and speech  
but in deed and truth

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### 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!

## FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

May 2, 2021

WATCH

#### THE WAY OF ST. JAMES

This documentary follows the journey of several pilgrims who differ in culture and religious faith but are united in their journey across the Camino de Santiago. Each of them is travelling toward the shrine of St. James the Apostle, whose feast day we celebrate this week.



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**SANCTUARY CLEANERS THIS WEEK**

Sandy Hinderliter, Mary Claire Johnston, and Arlene Stewart.

**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!

**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.



**SPAGHETTI DINNER**

St. Bernard Church, Falls Creek, famous Spaghetti Dinner will be on Sunday, May 16, 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.

**THANK YOU FROM THE PRIESTS**

Last weekend, our parish participated in a collection to support the retired diocesan priest fund. Despite these difficult economic times we appreciate your generous response to share in the care of those faithful priests who have ministered to your spiritual needs.



Our priests truly appreciate your support and thank you for contributing, \$2,277.00 to the Good Shepherd Collection for Erie Diocesan Retired Priests.

If you would like to add your support to this collection you may still return the special collection envelope for Good Shepherd in upcoming collections or mail to the Parish Office.

Thank you.



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**CATHOLIC SERVICES**

**APPEAL 2021**

It's not too late to make your pledge to the Catholic Services Appeal for 2021. Pledges to date can be found on the back page of the bulletin.

Please remember that all gifts, regardless of the size are important, needed, and appreciated. Thank you for your support!

**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

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**FIRST READING**  
 When Saul arrived in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. (Acts 9:26)

**PSALM**  
 I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people. (Ps 22)  
 Or Alleluia.

**SECOND READING**  
 And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. (1 Jn 3:23)

**GOSPEL**  
 "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing." (Jn 15:5)

**OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 2, 2021**

- Sunday: 5th Sunday of Easter
- Monday: Sts. Phillip and James, Apostles
- Wednesday: Cinco de Mayo
- Thursday: National Day of Prayer
- Next Sunday: 6th Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day

WEEKLY OFFERTORY ANALYSIS April 25, 2021		Catholic Services Appeal 2021	
<b>Church Offertory</b>		2021 Diocesan Assessment \$76,000.00	
<i>Envelopes sent</i>	715	<b>Total Parish Goal</b> \$126,000.00	
<i>Adult Envelopes Returned</i>	166		
Adult	\$5,560.80	Pledged Amt:	\$90,080.00
Holy Day	\$10.00	Paid on Pledge:	\$76,754.45
Easter	\$25.00	Unpaid Pledges:	\$13,325.55
Children	\$8.00	Unpledged Donations:	\$5,217.00
Loose	\$174.00	Collected to Date:	\$81,971.45
Monthly	\$515.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,292.80</b>		
<i>Weekly Goal</i>	\$8,000.00		
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$1,707.20)		
<b>Accumulated(+/-) Goal</b>	<b>\$12,544.34</b> <i>Under goal</i>		

**Readings for the Week of May 2, 2021**

- Sunday: Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 [26a]/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8
- Monday: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Jn 14:6-14
- Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21 [cf. 12]/Jn 14:27-31a
- Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 [cf. 1]/Jn 15:1-8
- Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10 [3]/Jn 15:9-11
- Friday: Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12 [10a]/Jn 15:12-17
- Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21
- Next Sunday: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 [cf. 2b]/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17

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