

All good giving
and every perfect gift
is from above.

James 1:17

*Happy
Mother's Day*

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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, 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

Monday, May 10

8:00 a.m. Parishioners

Tuesday, May 11

8:00 a.m. John Rake -- John & Pat Farcus

Wednesday, May 12

8:00 a.m. Alex & Martha Porter -- Paul & Bertha Koza

7:00 p.m. (*Wednesday*) Anna Lou Blose --
C. D. of A., Court St. Rita #353

THURSDAY ASCENSION OF THE LORD

9:00 a.m. Bob Day -- John Fairman

Friday, May 14

8:00 a.m. George & Anne Zatsick -- Cathy Smith

Saturday, May 15

4:30 p.m. John Phillips -- Nick, Traci, and Nick Kachur

Sunday, May 16

8:00 a.m. Parishioners
10:00 a.m. Living & Deceased of the Karolick Family --
Stacy Karolick



The Week Ahead

Wednesday, May 12 -

10:00am - Bible Study - Meeting Room

Thursday, May 13 -

6:00 pm - 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:

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

love
each other
as I have
loved you.
John 15:12

How can you be *commanded* to love? Surely love has to be a free response, not an obligation. You can be commanded to obey, but how can you be commanded to love? How could Jesus say, "This is my commandment, that you love one another?"

Meister Eckhart threw a clear light on this conundrum. He said, "When I am thirsty, the drink commands me; when I am hungry, the food commands me. And God does the same [when he commands me to love]." In other words, the command to love is not a command that is laid on us from the outside; it is an inner command, an inner urgency placed in our very being by God – like hunger and thirst; or, you might say, like the urgency that an oak tree has to develop as an oak tree. It is not something alien, it is totally our own, and yet it is totally from God – because God is totally our own, "more ours," said Tauler, "than anything else we own." If God is totally ours, then God's commands are totally ours.

Most of us grew up with the belief that God was somewhere else, not here; that heaven was a place where God lived far away. Any communication from such a God would be an intrusion from the outside. Certainly, we also said that God was everywhere, but these two thoughts may never have overlapped or touched each other at all. If we also had the wrong kind of fear of God, we may then have imagined him everywhere in the way that a controlling headmaster is 'everywhere' in the school – meaning that no matter what you did, you were found out.

Our thoughts and feelings about God are always in need of a great deal of healing (see May 6). This should be happening naturally, and through the grace of God, in the course of our daily life, but prayer and meditation are the favored place for it to happen. There the experience of the day is sifted without interference and comes around slowly into the right perspective. We can confidently hope to be able to enjoy our faith. Meister Eckhart again: "If anyone commands me to do that which is pleasant, which avails me or on which my bliss depends, that is exceedingly sweet to me."

Joy is very close to the heart of our faith. Jesus "rejoiced in the Holy Spirit" (Luke 10:21) and wants to draw us into his own joy (John 15:11). Paul mentions joy as a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). St Thomas Aquinas wrote, "Since the enjoyment of God...surpasses the power of all creatures, it follows that this complete and perfect joy does not enter into us but rather we enter into it. 'Enter into the joy of your Lord' (Matthew 25.21)."

God Bless!
Msgr. J. 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.

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN



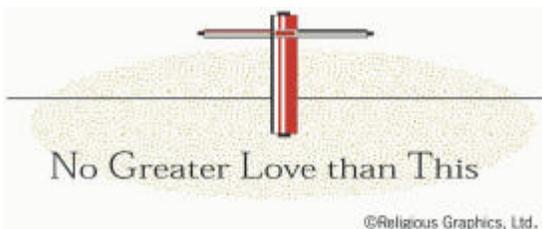
We will again participate in the annual "Baby Bottle Campaign" to support the *We Care Pregnancy Center*.

Baby bottles are available on the tables at the entrances to the church beginning today, Mother's Day, May 9th. If you wish to participate, pick up a bottle as you leave Mass and use it over the next 6 weeks to save your spare coins at the end of each day. You don't have to fill your bottle - all donations are appreciated.

Return your bottles to church on Father's Day, June 20th. Cathy Smith is the contact person.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Today's gospel challenges us to "love one another as I have loved you." Jesus is our model and he asks us to "lay down our life" (our time, attention, opinions and needs) for each other. This is the sacrament of the family, when God is made visible in our sacrificial love for one another.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Darlene Black of our parish who died this 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.

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.



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, 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.

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.

CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

Digital safety and keeping your child's personal information personal:

If your child gives out personal information over the internet, it is easy to track and tough to completely remove. Teach your children to never give out personal information, such as: full name, address, phone number, email, school, or birthday on any social media site. Help your child set up strong passwords (alphanumeric) and do a yearly checkup on passwords. Adjust privacy settings for online games, apps, social media sites and your child's electronic devices. Don't forget to check the GPS settings ability to unintentionally share your child's location. Avoid using public wi-fi when sharing personal information.

To see what the diocese is doing to help maintain safe environments for children and youth, visit <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/>

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.



FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

May 9, 2021

WATCH

FATIMA GEMS

Fatima Gems, hosted by Fr. Andrew Apostoli, focuses on the beauty of Our Lady's messages to three young children in 1917. This series demonstrates ways to apply the Fatima teachings to our everyday lives, showcasing that this apparition is just as relevant to our culture today as it was 100 years ago.



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SAINT VINCENT DePAUL WEEKLY FOOD DONATION

Food Donation next Sunday, May 16 - **Jello**. Thank you for your support!

USHERS NEEDED

We are in need of additional ushers for the 4:30pm and 10:00am Masses. Anyone wishing to be an usher at Mass can contact the office at 814-938-6540 or sscdofc@comcast.net to let us know your availability and Mass time preference.

Thank you.

SAINT VINCENT DePAUL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday, May 15 -

Tom & Nancy Wise

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!

SANCTUARY CLEANERS THIS WEEK

Jeanne Farcus, Barb Gresock, Bertha Koza, Sharon Murray.

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!

INTERNATIONAL NEEDS COLLECTION

The second collection next weekend, the annual International Needs Collection, provides us with the opportunity to broaden our charitable horizons by reaching out to our suffering brothers and sisters throughout the world.

This collection gives aid to those forced to leave their homes because of war or famine; children who go to bed hungry and who cannot attend school; victims of war and natural disasters; those who are persecuted for their faith; as well as those who wish to study for the priesthood, but do not have the means to do so.

There is an envelope attached to your bulletin for this special collection. Please be as generous as you can.



SPAGHETTI DINNER

St. Bernard Church, Falls Creek, famous Spaghetti Dinner next 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.

PLEASE BE AWARE

In this age when personal data can be misused by scam artists, please be aware that the Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie, its clergy, and entities such as parishes and schools will never solicit your personal or business information by any method unless initiated by you.

Should you receive an unsolicited request for such information — including a request for gift cards of any type — exercise extreme caution. Contact the person or entity by using official contact information only. Do not use contact information provided in the potential fraudulent request.

SAINT JOSEPH - FOUR-PART SERIES ON FORMED

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp in this Year of St. Joseph as they discuss his Old Testament prefigurement, his role in the life of the Church, and his importance for the family today.

<https://watch.formed.org/saint-joseph-series>

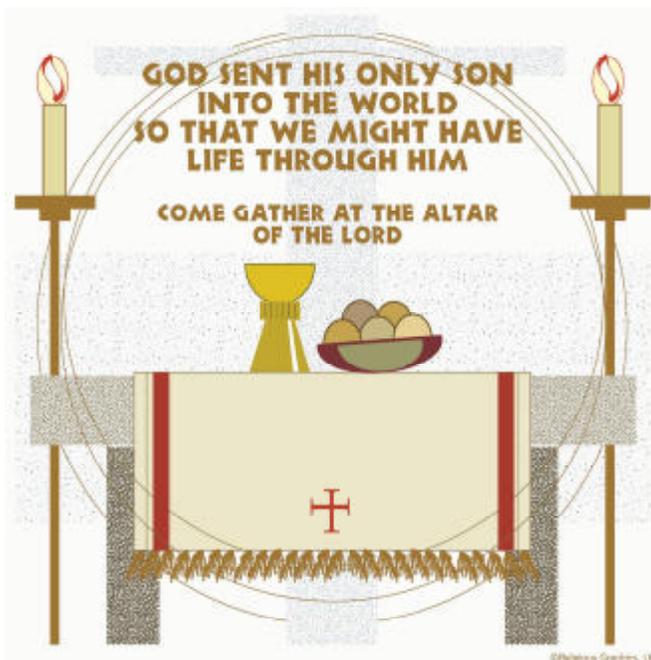
GOD is LOVE

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



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!

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 9, 2021

- Sunday: 6th Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day
- Monday: St. Damien de Veuster, Priest
- Wednesday: Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs; St. Pancras, Martyr
- Thursday: The Ascension of the Lord [holy day in some U.S. dioceses] Our Lady of Fatima
- Friday: St. Matthias, Apostle
- Saturday: St. Isidore; Armed Forces Day
- Next Sunday: The Ascension of the Lord; 7th Sunday of Easter World Communications Day

WEEKLY OFFERTORY ANALYSIS
 May 2, 2021

Church Offertory	
Envelopes sent	711
Adult Envelopes Returned	185
Adult	\$7,138.01
Holy Day	\$80.00
Easter	\$35.00
Children	\$4.00
Loose	\$341.00
Monthly	\$465.00
Total	\$8,063.01
Weekly Goal	\$8,000.00
Surplus (Deficit)	\$63.01
Accumulated(+/-) Goal	\$12,481.33 <i>Under goal</i>

Catholic Services Appeal 2021

2021 Diocesan Assessment \$76,000.00	
Total Parish Goal \$126,000.00	
Pledged Amt:	\$90,080.00
Paid on Pledge:	\$77,139.45
Unpaid Pledges:	\$12,940.55
Unpledged Donations:	\$5,744.00
Collected to Date:	\$82,883.45

Readings for the Week of May 9, 2021

- 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
- Monday: Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 15:26—16:4a
- Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [7c]/Jn 16:5-11
- Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Jn 16:12-15
- Thursday: Acts 18:1-8/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [cf. 2b]/Jn 16:16-20 *Ascension:* Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13/Mk 16:15-20
- Friday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [8]/Jn 15:9-17
- Saturday: Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-10, 10 [8a]/Jn 16:23b-28
- Next Sunday: Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20 [19a]/1 Jn 4:11-16/Jn 17:11b-19

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