

SS. Cosmas and Damian Church

616 W. Mahoning Street, Punxsutawney, PA 15767

814-938-6540 - sscdofc@comcast.net

Website - sscdchurch.com

School - 814-938-4224 - sscdschool.com



Pastor – Msgr. Joseph J. Riccardo

**School Principal –
Heather Kunselman, ex. 224**

**Secretaries –
Jean Gigliotti, ex. 210
Jude Griffith, ex. 213**

**Business Manager –
Tony Bofinger, ex. 214**

**Religious Ed Coordinator –
Sue Dahrouge, ex. 226**

**Twenty-second
Sunday
In Ordinary Time**

August 29, 2021

Let us live in the
presence of the Lord!

Sunday Masses:

Vigil on Saturday evening at 4:30pm

Sunday Morning :

Summer Schedule - (May 1 – Aug. 31)

8:00 and 10:00am

Winter Schedule - (Sept 1 – April 30)

8:00 and 11:00am

Weekday Masses: Monday – Friday 8:00am
(Fri. during School – 9:00am)

Baptism:

By appointment only. Please contact the parish office.

Celebration of Penance:

3:45pm- Saturday afternoon

5:30pm – after the Saturday evening Mass

8:30am – after Mass on the Thursday

before the first Friday of the month.

Marriage:

Please contact the parish office at least six months beforehand.

Anointing of the Sick:

Please call the office if anyone in your family is hospitalized or in need of a priest.

Mass Intentions for This Week

Saturday, August 28

4:30 p.m. Frances Mary & Samuel Villella --
Pauline & Jerry Hallman

Sunday, August 29

8:00 a.m. Genevieve & Harlan Painter -- Kathy Painter
10:00 a.m. Ross & Jessie Gigliotti -- Mary Molinari

Monday, August 30

8:00 a.m. James A. Martino -- Frank & Julie Mondì

Tuesday, August 31

8:00 a.m. Parishioners

Wednesday, September 1

8:00 a.m. Louise & Joseph Molinaro -- Family

Thursday, September 2

8:00 a.m. David Finn -- Family

Friday, September 3

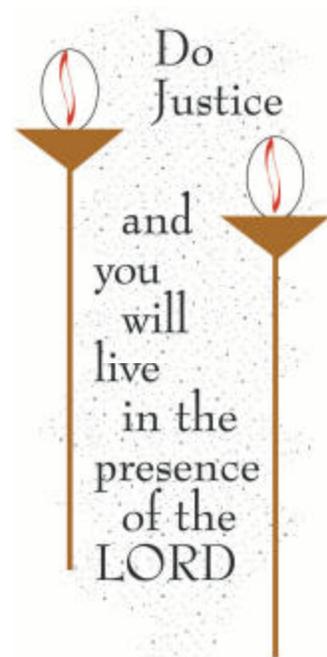
9:00 a.m. Sam & Carmenell Renne --
David & Corinne Howe

Saturday, September 4

8:00 a.m. Hyacinth & Althea Bianco -- Jennifer Skarbek
4:30 p.m. Bill Roberts, Sr. -- Joan Bizousky

Sunday, September 5

8:00 a.m. William A. Barilar --
Ron, Vickie & Emily Urchuck
11:00 a.m. Edward & Gerry McGinnis -- Mary Jane Juliette



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THE
WEEK
AHEAD

Tuesday, August 31

6:00pm -- Recitation of the Rosary - Church
6:00pm -- Men's Basketball - Gym

Friday, September 3 - First Friday

9:45am - 4pm - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - Church

MASS TIME CHANGE

Our Mass schedule will change to our Fall/Winter schedule beginning next Sunday, September 5th. The only change is to the last Mass on Sunday. Mass times will be:

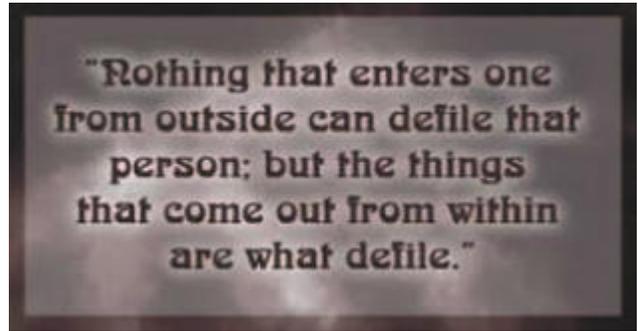
- ◆ Saturday evening - 4:30pm
- ◆ Sunday morning - 8:00 and 11:00am



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Dear Parishioners,

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.)



So, the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come, fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

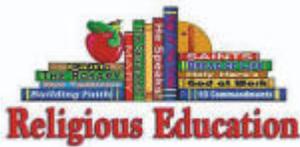
History is not the past; it is the present looking at the past. By placing the Pharisees before our eyes in so many readings the Liturgy is clearly calling us to see ourselves in them.

Like them, we know that it is much easier to deal with outer, visible things than with the inner world of attitudes: with the heart. And so, like them, we tend to evaluate ourselves and others in purely external ways: the number of prayers we recite, the amount of money we give, etc. There is nothing wrong with external things, but there is also an inner world that shapes and gives meaning to the external. When we make religion a 'business' we turn the inner spirit into an external 'thing'. The German philosopher, Hegel, one of the most influential thinkers of the 19th century, wrote: "The Holy as a mere *thing* has the character of externality; thus it is capable of being taken possession of by another to my exclusion; it may come into an alien hand, since the process of appropriating it is not one that takes place in the Spirit... The highest of human blessings is thus thought to be in the hands of others." This was not written about the historical Pharisees, but about Christians who developed a similar attitude to theirs. It is difficult to retain a clear vision of the Gospel: that "God is Spirit", and those who worship him should worship *in spirit and in truth* (John 4:24). We are forever in danger of stepping into the shoes of the Pharisees.

What the Pharisees lacked in spectacular fashion was any kind of interiority or depth; their minds were turned outwards, to rules and casuistry. What matters, Jesus said, is not what goes into a person from the outside, but what comes out from the inside. Religion is not about *things*; it is about *you!* It is about the kind of response you make to the world, to others, and to God. It is about whether that wonderful 'chemistry' of the Gospel is happening in you: the kind of 'chemistry' that can turn bad stuff into good, curses into blessings, suffering into prayer.

The spirit of faith is hard to keep in sight at all times, yet it is meant for all times. It is the most sublime wisdom, yet it is meant to be very practical and not just a philosophy, a way of thinking. One way to make these ends meet is to identify religion with a few very visible practices. This is what the Pharisees and others did in the time of Jesus, and it is a constant temptation for us.

God Bless!
Msgr. J. Riccardo



Registration for Religious Education Classes for this coming school year is currently underway. Forms and information have been sent to parents. If you didn't receive a form, just call or stop in the office.

If you have any questions about our Religious Education Program just call or stop in the office.

The first class for all grade levels will be Sunday, September 12th from 9:15 - 10:45am.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HELP NEEDED

We are in need of additional instructors for our Religious Education Program for this year. We are also in need of substitute teachers. You could also "team teach" with a current teacher or volunteer to help out in the office during class time.



If you have a few hours a month to give and would like to become involved in our program, you can contact the office. Training will be provided. **You are needed!**

FIRST FRIDAY

Friday of this week, September 3rd, is the first Friday of the month.

Confessions for the First Friday will be on Thursday at 8:30am.

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 reflects that of Pope Francis: for an increase in respect and care for our planet. We pray that we all will make choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle.

Please plan to come spend some time in adoration of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin boards.



OBLIGATION TO ATTEND MASS

Bishop Persico has reinstated the obligation to attend Mass in person on Sundays and Holy Days in the Diocese of Erie.



The bishop also reiterated that, by longstanding church law, the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday does not apply to those who are sick, have a serious health risk, live in a household with those at risk, are primary caregivers to those at risk, are unable to attend Mass in person, or have serious anxiety or concerns about being in a large-group setting due to COVID-19. Anyone who believes they might have COVID-19 or one of its variants should stay home "as an act of charity."

Please note that masks are not being required at this time. However, if you feel more comfortable wearing one, you are certainly encouraged to do so.

FALL BIBLE STUDIES

This Fall, the Monday evening and Wednesday morning Bible Study groups will be reading Dr. Ed Sri's book, *A Biblical Walk Through The Mass*.



This study focuses on every part of the Liturgy and how it is inspired in scripture. We will explore the roots of the Mass, learning why we say and do what we do during Mass. Dr. Sri has provided teaching DVDs to accompany this series.

Everyone is invited to come and learn about our faith in general and the Liturgy in particular. **The Monday evening group (last year's Thursday group) will meet at 6pm beginning on September 13th and the Wednesday morning group will meet at 10am beginning on September 15th.** Both sessions will be in the Meeting Room.

For more information or to sign up for this study, please call Patti Spinelli at 814-938-4720. We ask you to pre-register so we will be sure to have enough materials for everyone.



For the benefit of those who may be ill or unable to return to Mass at this time, we will continue to live stream the last Mass each Sunday. Look for the graphic on our parish website, sscdchurch.com, and click the link on Sundays at 11am to join.

If you have any questions, just call the office.

Liturgical Ministers



LECTORS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers wishing to be placed back on the schedule for weekend Masses are asked to call the office, 814-938-6540, ext. 210 or email sscdofc@comcast.net

We would like to produce our usual schedule and hope to add your name to the list of those currently active in these ministries. We look forward to your participation.

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

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

In today's gospel Jesus warns "what comes from within can defile" a person. Families need to worry about "outside influences" but also about "inside influences." The values our children carry for a life time are learned at home. Habits of the Hearth are the most powerful influences on a child. That can be good or bad news, depending on what's being learned!

SCRIP PROGRAM

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

Please use the walk up window next to Lisa's office to purchase your Scrip, Monday - Friday, 7:30am - 2:30pm.

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.



K OF C SUMMER PICNIC

All Knights of Columbus, and any man interested in becoming a Knight, are invited to the K. of C. Summer Picnic.

It will be held Monday, September 13, 6:30pm, at Reschini Hall in Walston. On the menu is a prime rib dinner with corn on the cob, baked potatoes, and salad.

Those interested in attending should get in touch with either Joe Nogacek, 814-938-4668, or Joe Defelice, 814-952-7824, to sign up. The cost is \$15 and must be paid by Aug 31.



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.

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

August 29, 2021

FORMED NOW: POPE SAINT GREGORY THE GREAT

Throughout her life, St. Monica constantly prayed for the conversion of Augustine, her beloved son. In a moment of desperation, she even asked for the bishop's help. In response, he said, "the son of those tears surely will not perish." Truly, as this bishop remarked, Monica's tearful prayers helped build her son into the Doctor of Grace. In this video, join Dr. Gray and Dr. Sehorn as they discuss more about this great Saint.



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JOIN THE CHOIR!

Our Choir is in need of spirit-filled singers to join our ranks at the last Mass on Sundays! The ability to read music is not required.



We sing at Sunday Masses September through May and other special occasions throughout the year. Rehearsals are held most Thursdays from 6:00 - 7:30pm.

We'd love for you to join us; please contact Toie Neal at 952-1523.

“How do I become a Catholic?”

Has anyone ever asked you that question?

The RCIA (*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*) answers that question.



Classes this year will begin in October and will continue until Easter of next year. The classes will cover an overview of the Catholic faith and the doctrines which are the foundation upon which our church and faith are built.

Anyone who is interested is welcome to come to the first few classes before making a decision to commit to the following preparation classes for reception into the Catholic Church.

Call the office, 814-938-6540, to register or just come to the first class, date to be announced.



If you, as a young adult, are wrestling with big questions about your future, don't worry —

you are not alone!

The Samuel Group is for young adults ages 20-30 who seriously desire to discern God's will for their lives. The Samuel Group is a seven-month journey that includes: monthly gatherings at Saint Mark Catholic Center, spiritual direction, prayer, talks, small group discussion, and accompaniment. The goal of the Samuel Group is for each participant to grow in self-knowledge and to hear and respond to God's call with an open heart.

Applications are due September 1. Please visit the diocesan website for the informational video and application details: <https://www.eriecd.org/youth/samuelgroup.html>

For more information contact Director of Vocations, Fr. Scott Jabo, at SWJabo@eriecd.org or Jillian Zaczyk, Director of Young Adult & Youth Ministry, at jzaczyk@eriecd.org

SAINT VINCENT DePAUL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday, September 4

Rod & Jessica Perry and Sharon Murray

K OF C FOOTBALL TICKETS

The Knights have the 2021 Football Tickets for sale! Limited number available.



Anyone interested can contact a Knight for a ticket. Tickets are \$10 each and are based on NFL football team scores from November 7 - January 9.

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.

SAINT VINCENT DePAUL WEEKLY FOOD DONATION

Food donation next Sunday, **September 5 - SpaghettiOs**. Thank you for your support!



RECITATION OF THE ROSARY

A Rosary in honor of our Lady of Fatima is prayed every Tuesday evening at 6pm in church. Everyone is welcome. Please join us.



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.

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Our advertisers need your help during these difficult times!

Please show your support for your parish by also supporting our advertisers. We wouldn't be able to bring you our bulletin every week without them, and right now they need your help more than ever. Please encourage and remind others to show their support and shop local during these hard times!

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 29, 2021

- Sunday:** 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Friday:** St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church
- Saturday:** BVM
- Next Sunday:** 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 Android Users Text: *ParishApp2* to 800-950-9952



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 calendars 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 or you may stop in the office.



Be doers of the Word and not hearers only

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WEEKLY OFFERTORY ANALYSIS August 22, 2021 SACRIFICIAL GIVING MEANS LIFE		Catholic Services Appeal 2021	
Church Offertory		2021 Diocesan Assessment \$76,000.00	
<i>Travellers and</i>	711	Total Parish Goal \$126,000.00	
<i>/ Adult Travellers Returned</i>	209		
Adult	\$6,758.00	Pledged Amt:	\$91,255.00
Holy Day	\$345.00	Paid on Pledge:	\$85,214.05
Children	\$8.00	Unpaid Pledges:	\$6,040.95
Tease	\$165.00	Unpledged Donations:	\$12,645.69
Monthly	\$485.00	Collected to Date:	\$97,259.74
Total	\$7,761.00		
Weekly Goal	\$8,000.00		
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$239.00)		
Accumulated(+/-)	\$3,661.71		

Readings for the Week of August 29, 2021

- Sunday:** Dt 4:1-2, 6-8/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 [1a]/Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27/Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
- Monday:** 1 Thes 4:13-18/Ps 96:1 and 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13 [13b]/Lk 4:16-30
- Tuesday:** 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [13]/Lk 4:31-37
- Wednesday:** Col 1:1-8/Ps 52:10, 11 [10]/Lk 4:38-44
- Thursday:** Col 1:9-14/Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6 [2]/Lk 5:1-11
- Friday:** Col 1:15-20/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 [2b]/Lk 5:33-39
- Saturday:** Col 1:21-23/Ps 54:3-4, 6 and 8 [6]/Lk 6:1-5
- Next Sunday:** Is 35:4-7a/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 [1b]/Jas 2:1-5/Mk 7:31-37

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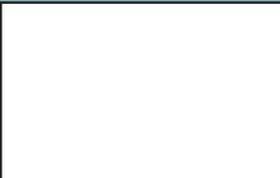


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