

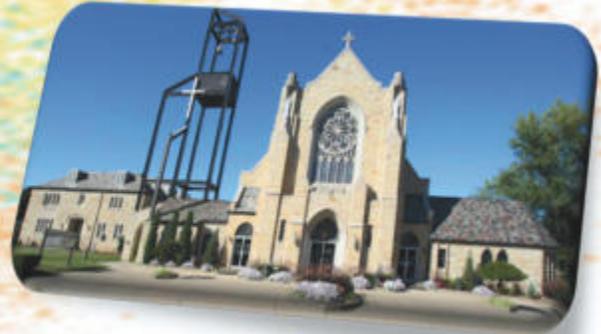
SS. Cosmas and Damian Church

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-fourth Sunday
In Ordinary Time**

September 12, 2021

**I will walk before the Lord
in the land of the living!**

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, September 11

4:30 p.m. Robert Borelli -- Edward Borelli

Sunday, September 12

8:00 a.m. Madlyn Mankovich --

Doug Mankovich Family

11:00 a.m. Teresa A. Gigliotti -- Jennifer Skarbek

Monday, September 13

8:00 a.m. Gerry Gigliotti -- Dan & Karen Burkett

Tuesday, September 14

8:00 a.m. Steve & Catherine Bosak -- Family

Wednesday, September 15

8:00 a.m. Mary Lou Maddox Covatch -- Friends

Thursday, September 16

8:00 a.m. Raymond Rasavage -- Pete & Elaine Pape

Friday, September 17

9:00 a.m. Parishioners

Saturday, September 18

4:30 p.m. Theresa Capozzoli --

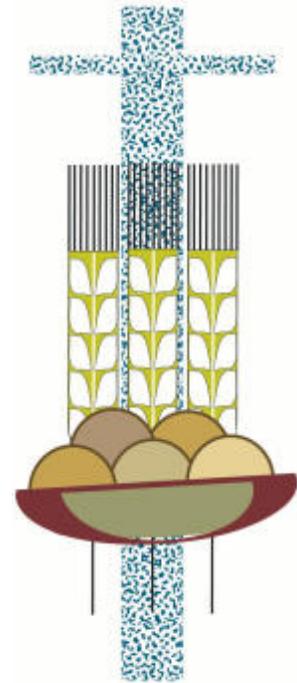
Donna & Mike Defelice & Family

Sunday, September 19

8:00 a.m. Jack & Mary Williams --

Leo & Mary Claire Johnston

11:00 a.m. Caroline Martino -- Carol Laska & Family



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Today, Sunday, September 12

9:15am -- Religious Education Classes, K-10

9:15am -- Confirmation Class - Religious Ed Office

Monday, September 13

6:00pm -- Bible Study - Meeting Room

6:30pm -- K of C Picnic - Reschini Hall

Tuesday, September 14

6:00pm -- Recitation of the Rosary - Church

6:00pm -- Men's Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, September 15

10:00am -- Bible Study - Meeting Room

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

Sunday, September 19

9:15am -- Religious Education Classes, K-10

THE
WEEK
AHEAD



I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIGHT

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Dear Parishioners,

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.



I heard someone described as "a priestly priest," and wondered what it meant. Whatever else it might mean, it meant that he matched perfectly somebody's idea of a priest - an uncertain distinction in itself. A priest of my acquaintance received a standing ovation after a sermon, and was glowing for days, until another priest said to him, "I shouldn't be so happy about it: Jesus preached, and they crucified him; you preached, and they gave you a standing ovation!"

Jesus was the exact opposite of what he was expected to be: he was a messianic Messiah. In the popular mind the Messiah was expected to be a powerful military and political leader who would bring his people to victory over all their enemies, in the name of God of course. When Peter called him Messiah, he was "sternly rebuked" and told not to repeat it. Instantly Jesus began to speak of suffering instead: "He began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering...and be put to death" (today's reading). Suffering and death were no part of the image of Messiah, but rather victory.

Christians speak of Christ's "victory over sin and death." He achieved this victory not by killing but by dying. St Augustine said he was "victor and victim; and victor because he was the victim." This striking expression reverses all our notions about victory and defeat. Indeed, the Cross of Christ reverses all our values: success and failure, power and weakness, glory and shame, wealth and poverty, belonging and rejection, even life and death.... His greatest disciples understood this well: St Paul wrote, "I will not boast, except of my weaknesses" (2 Corinthians 12:5), and "when I am weak then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10). It is only by the grace of God that this revolution can shape our lives. We are blessed if we experience it at all, even if only in special moments. The hierarchy of the Western Church moved quite comfortably into the Imperial world of power and palaces and purple - the original secularization of the Church. A cardinal in all his regalia is a much more secularized figure than a scruffy priest in denim. But fundamentally secularization is a state of mind. What matters is that a disciple should "have the mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:16).

God Bless!

Msgr. J. Riccardo



**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
CLASSES BEGIN TODAY**

Religious Education Classes start today, Sunday, September 12, for all grade levels. Classes are being held from 9:15 - 10:45am.

If you have not yet registered your child/children in our program, stop in the Religious Education office prior to class today.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
HELP NEEDED**

It's not too late to volunteer!

We are always in need of substitute teachers in our Religious Education Program. You could also "team teach" with a current teacher, or volunteer to help out in the Religious Education office.

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!**



FALL BIBLE STUDIES BEGIN THIS WEEK

The 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. Teaching DVDs will 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.

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."

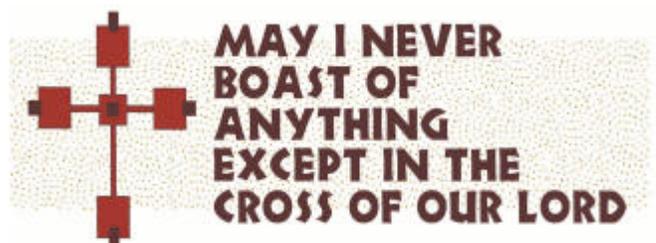
Please note that masks are not being required at this time. However, if you feel more comfortable wearing one, you are certainly encouraged to do so.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

The second collection this weekend, September 11/12, will help address the needs of the people of the nation of Haiti who are suffering greatly in the aftermath of the horrific earthquake and torrential rains of tropical storm Grace.

Your donations to this special collection will go directly to the Bishops Emergency Disaster Fund to support this disaster relief effort and those that may happen in the near future.

Thank you for your always generous response.





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.

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.



A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

If commitment is the choice we make to give up other choices, then it is about "losing ourselves". If we try to be independent from others by "saving ourselves", we end up lonely and alone. Happiness is found in commitments. The gospel is true: We save our life by losing it!

CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

Diocesan Child Protection Policies:

The Diocese of Erie, along with all other dioceses in the United States, has policies and procedures in place to address the national problem of child abuse and to aid in maintaining safe environments.

The three main components of the Policy for the Protection of Children are: screening of all employees and volunteers who work with minors; training of all youth, parents, employees, and volunteers; and reporting all suspected child abuse.

The diocese is committed to promptly reporting any suspected child abuse directly to ChildLine or law enforcement. The diocese requires on-going screening and training of all personnel, paid or unpaid, who have regular contact with our children and youth under the age of 18. The diocese also requires yearly safe environment training of our children, youth, and parents regarding touching-safety and safe environments.

To read the policy and learn what the diocese requires for all personnel who work with children and youth in parishes/schools/agencies visit: <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/>

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.

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

Sept 12, 2021

THE RELUCTANT SAINT: THE STORY OF ST. JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO

Set in France at the beginning of World War II, this inspiring film narrates the heroic work of Sister Helene Studler, the Daughter of Charity who saved the lives of thousands of French refugees by preventing them from becoming prisoners of the Nazi forces, or freeing those who were captured. Among those she saved were many illustrious characters including the future Prime Minister of France, François de Mitterrand.



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“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.

BUILDING SUCCESS is not possible without



Catholic Education Collection September 18-19, 2021

Building the Church and its leaders is all possible with support from Y-O-U!
The yearly collection raises funds to support education activities in your parish and throughout the diocese that are inclusive of all ages and generations.

We need your support now more than ever!

- 1 Use the offertory collection envelope.
- 2 Donate online.

www.ErieRCD.org/Catholic-Education-Collection.html



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SAINT VINCENT DePAUL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday, September 18

Mario Cardamone, Tom Brown, and Greg Aikens

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.

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, x 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.

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!



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.

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.



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.

SANCTUARY CLEANERS THIS WEEK

Bob Henretta, Katie Roberts, Rita Yenzi

SAINT VINCENT DePAUL WEEKLY FOOD DONATION

Food donation next Sunday, **September 19** - **Canned Corn**. Thank you for your support!

FALL FESTIVAL

Immaculate Conception and Saint Dominic Churches are celebrating their annual Fall Festival this weekend, September 10, 11, 12 on the school grounds at 82 Summit Street, Brookville.



The Festival continues on Saturday until 8pm and from 10am to 3pm on Sunday. Festival includes a \$2,500 Cash Raffle, a huge Flea Market, Craft and Christmas Room, Homemade Soup by the quart, Polish Food, Gift Auction, Sweet Shop, Theme Basket Room, outdoor games and fun for the kids (Saturday only), and Food Stand.

Entertainment by John Eric McNeil on Saturday evening from 6-8pm. Sunday will feature a Roast Beef Dinner (take-out only) beginning at 11:15am - \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5-10; the drawing for all the prizes will begin at 3pm. All are welcome to enjoy the Festival! For a schedule of events check out the webpage at icbrookville.com.

OFFERTORY FIGURES

Because of an early deadline for submitting this week's bulletin to the publisher, the offertory figures do not appear in this space as they normally would.

All figures will be up-to-date in next week's bulletin.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

St. Bernard Church, Falls Creek, famous Spaghetti Dinner will be next Sunday, September 19, from 10am-1:30pm or until sold out.



Dinners are dine in or take out; please bring your own container for take outs.



REMEMBERING OUR SUNDAY STORY

As part of the *Re-membering Our Sunday Story* initiative, Bishop Lawrence Persico has released "a pastoral letter in pandemic." Anchored in the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, one section of the letter looks at the challenges we've been facing during this time of pandemic. The bishop's words invite us to consider how Christ has remained with us, even if, like the disciples who unknowingly met Christ, we didn't always recognize him.

Find the letter, as well as questions for reflection and discussion, at www.eriecd.org/SundayStory.html.

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

- Sunday: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Grandparents' Day
- Monday: St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Tuesday: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- Wednesday: Our Lady of Sorrows
- Thursday: Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs
- Friday: St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Saturday: BVM
- Next Sunday: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catechetical Sunday



Readings for the Week of September 12, 2021

- Sunday: Is 50:5-9a/Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [9]/Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-35
- Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17 [1Cor 11:26b]/Lk 7:1-10
- Tuesday: Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38 [cf. 7b]/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17
- Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [2]/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35
- Thursday: 1 Tm 4:12-16/Ps 111:7-8, 9, 10 [2]/Lk 7:36-50
- Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20/Lk 8:1-3
- Saturday: 1Tm 6:13-16/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 [2]/Lk 8:4-15
- Next Sunday: Wis 2:12, 17-20/Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6-8 [6b]/Jas 3:16—4:3/Mk 9:30-37

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