

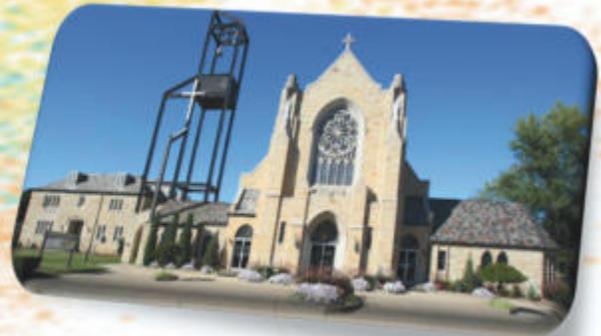
SS. Cosmas and Damian Church

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**

Thirtieth Sunday In Ordinary Time

October 24, 2021

**The Lord has done great things
for us; we are filled with joy!**

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, October 23

4:30 p.m. Bill & Alice Duminske -- Family

Sunday, October 24

8:00 a.m. Deceased of the Bevak and Smelko Families --
Sam & Sandra Bevak

11:00 a.m. Wyonetta McGinnis -- Family

Monday, October 25

8:00 a.m. Parishioners

Tuesday, October 26

8:00 a.m. Ann Wehrle -- Teresa Smith

Wednesday, October 27

8:00 a.m. Marge Murdock -- Dan & Barbara Milton

Thursday, October 28

8:00 a.m. Mary and Millie Mondri -- LuAnn Rotolo

Friday, October 29

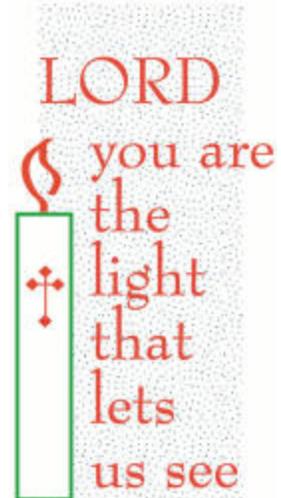
9:00 a.m. James & Alva Martino -- Patty & Tony West

Saturday, October 30

4:30 p.m. Celine Tersine --
Carol, George, Matthew and Andrew Wehrle

Sunday, October 31

8:00 a.m. Mary & Lou Vizza -- Family
11:00 a.m. Parishioners



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THE
WEEK
AHEAD

Today, Sunday, October 24

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

9:15am -- First Eucharist Parent
Meeting - Church

Monday, October 25

6:00pm -- Bible Study - Meeting Room

Tuesday, October 26

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

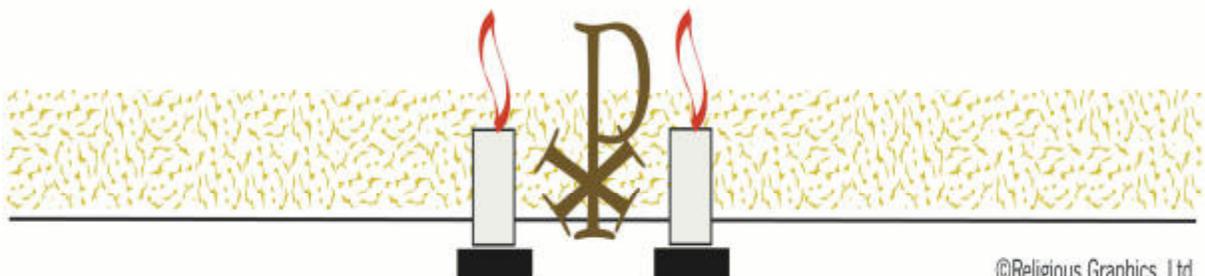
6:00pm -- Men's Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, October 27

10:00am -- Bible Study - Meeting Room

Sunday, October 31

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



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Dear Parishioners,

As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So, throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.



*The Lord
hears the
cry of
the poor.*

This is the second of two cures of blind men in Mark's gospel. Opening the eyes of the blind was prophesied as one of the works of the Messiah: "The eyes of the blind will see" (Is 29:18; see also 32:3). In fact, in the very next scene he is being proclaimed by the crowds as Messiah.

They are approaching Jerusalem (15 miles away), where the story will reach its climax with his death and resurrection. In Jerusalem all eyes will be fixed on him, most of them still blind to what he is; or worse, they will be watching him with malevolent intent. In the meantime, Bartimaeus, the blind beggar, having received his sight, followed him to Jerusalem. This gospel passage is a meditation on the different kinds of blindness.

I have a friend who has become blind in her old age, but her mind is as bright as a button. She still gives lectures, but she said that what pains her especially is being unable to see people's faces. Not till we lose our sight do we know how much we depend on it: for getting around objects, yes, but also for getting on with people. The human face speaks by every feature, not only by the mouth; we know how something is meant because we see the other's face: I have a deaf friend who says she "face-reads."

A blind beggar's misery is compounded: worse than the sum of the misery of a blind person and a beggar. He is totally at our mercy, stretching out his hand into the darkness, unable to gauge our mood, not knowing if we even see him.

Every believer is that man, most of the time. Faith is dark knowledge. Often we lift up our hands in prayer, and we feel no presence of the Other; we hear neither a promise nor a refusal. That is the time to remember Bartimaeus. He is placed here in the gospel story as an encouragement for us.

Let's watch him. When he heard that Jesus was passing by he began to shout, "Have pity on me!" People told him to shut up, he was making too much noise. But he shouted all the more. "Call him," Jesus said.... "Cheer up!" they told him. "On your feet, he's calling you." Then, the account continues, "throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus." He came, of course, still in the dark. Did you notice that he threw aside his cloak? It was a strange thing for a blind person to do: would he find it again? Blind people have great trouble finding things, they need the world to stay put. See how carefully they place things, caressing them almost. But sighted people are forever throwing things around. In throwing his cloak aside Bartimaeus acted like a sighted man. While all the sighted people held their cloaks and their possession around them with careful fingers, he alone leaped up, threw aside his cloak and ran to meet the Lord.

It is a very powerful symbol of the life of faith: he walked in the dark. Faith is a kind of knowledge, yes, but it is dark knowledge. Still, this dark knowledge sets us free, somehow, to move with confidence. How good it would be to move without timidity, to travel through our life with freedom and joy! A blind beggar shows us how.

We say seeing is believing. We put great stress on seeing. "Sight is our principal source of knowledge," said Aristotle, twenty-five centuries ago. And western culture has followed him particularly in this; it has a marked preference for sight over the other senses. Seeing is believing, we say. The meaning of today's gospel reading is best expressed by turning that phrase around. Believing is seeing. There is a kind of seeing that is even more basic than the sight of our eyes. That is the kind of sight that Jesus restores.

God Bless!

Msgr. J. Riccardo



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 hope to add your name to the list of those currently active in these ministries. We look forward to your participation.

We are scheduling one Lector and two Eucharistic Ministers for each weekend Mass.

OBLIGATION TO ATTEND MASS

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.

“How do I become a Catholic?”

Has anyone ever asked you that question? The RCIA (*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*) answers that question.

RCIA classes 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 for additional information.



BEAR BREAKFAST

The Knights of Columbus are planning their annual “Bear Breakfast” for Sunday November 7th, from 8am - 1pm.



The Menu will include Pancakes, Sausage, Bacon, Home Fries, Scrambled eggs, Toast, Coffee, Tea, and Juice.

Cost is just \$8 for Adults, \$5 for ages 6 - 12, and free for age 5 and under.

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for a great Sunday breakfast!

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Today is World Mission Sunday. We celebrate this day by remembering our baptismal call to bring the Gospel to all!



The collection today for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith supports the work and witness of the Mission Church, as it provides for priests, religious and lay leaders who offer the Lord’s mercy and concrete help to the most vulnerable communities in the Pope’s missions. Thank you for your generosity.



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.

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.





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.

ALL SOULS DAY ENVELOPES

As is the custom in our Parish, All Souls Day envelopes will be placed on the altar and remain there throughout the month of November. Just place your envelope, with the names of those you wish to remember, in the collection basket anytime over the next few weeks.



Please remember in your prayers all our beloved dead.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

William E. Taylor, brother of Ann Villella of our parish, who died this past week.

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

OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH

Each year the Church in the United States celebrates October as Respect Life Month. This is a time we can use to deepen our understanding of why, as Catholics, we "Respect Life" and what that looks like day-to-day.

The focus this year is on Saint Joseph, defender of life. He didn't hesitate to follow God's will of faithfully caring for and protecting Jesus and the Blessed Mother. St. Joseph's example reminds us that we are also to care for, protect, and defend the lives of our brothers and sisters.

May we, too, be miracles in the lives of those who are most in need, especially at the beginning and end of life.

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.



The annual SSCD School Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 20, 9am - 3pm in

Wienker Hall and the Gym.

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for a day of shopping fun! More details to come!



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FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

Oct 24, 2021

WITH GOD IN RUSSIA

Well known for his heroic story of surviving 24 years in Russian prison camps, this film about the great Jesuit Fr. Walter Ciszek traces his incredible endurance and struggle for survival. It highlights his tremendous faith in God, and the remarkable impact his life has had on the resurgence of Catholicism in Russia, as seen with on location footage from around the world.



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PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE

The Erie Diocesan Pilgrim Virgin Statue of our Lady of Fatima will be in our area throughout the month of November. The statue contains first class relics of Saint Francisco and Saint Jacinta, two of the children who witnessed apparitions of the Blessed Mother in Fatima, Portugal, in 1917.



If you wish to host the statue in your home for a day or longer, please contact Bernie Roney at 938-8310 and she will make those arrangements for you. The only requirement is that you will pray the Rosary daily while the statue is in your home.

SANCTUARY CLEANERS THIS WEEK

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

SAINT VINCENT DePAUL WEEKLY FOOD DONATION

Food donation next Sunday, **October 31 - Ramen Noodles**. Thank you for your support!

SAINT VINCENT DePAUL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday, October 30 -
Bernie & Mike Horner

FORTY DAYS FOR LIFE

We are observing **40 Days for Life** through the end of October by praying a pro-life Rosary before all 8am Masses, both daily and on Sundays.



Please join us when you can in support of all life.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

When Jesus asked the blind man “What do you want from me?” he asked for sight. If Jesus asked you the same question, what would you say? Pure and simple, that is prayer.

JOIN THE CHOIR!

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; just come to any practice.

Christmas Cash
GIVEAWAY!

Our School is sponsoring a **Christmas Cash Raffle!**

Tickets cost just \$5.00 each and the prize will be 1/2 of all ticket sales. There is a potential payout of \$16,500 to the lucky winner if all tickets are sold! The more we sell, the greater the prize!

The drawing will be held on Monday December 20th at the school.

Tickets have been mailed out and are also available at the church and school offices.

Thank you for your support! All proceeds benefit SSCD School.

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 24, 2021

Sunday: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time; World Mission Sunday

Thursday: Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles

Saturday: BVM

Next Sunday: 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time; Priesthood Sunday; All Hallow's Eve

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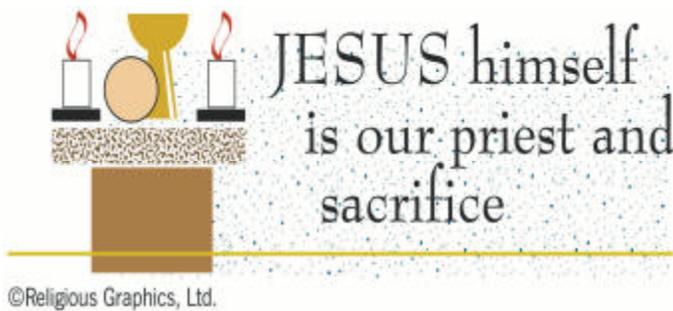
**RE-MEMBERING OUR
SUNDAY STORY**

“It is time for us to come together again as disciples of Christ and to “re-member” our Sunday story,” Bishop Lawrence Persico says in his new pastoral letter written in time of pandemic. “By this I do not mean only a recalling of the teachings and legacy of Jesus Christ that deepen our faith; I also mean that we need to come together again as the Body of Christ...and to become in Christ the faith-filled disciples that we are called to be.” The letter, along with questions for reflection and discussion, can be found in its entirety on the *Re-membering Our Sunday Story* webpage at www.Eriercd.org/sundaystory.html.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AND
ST. DOMINIC CHURCHES
HARVEST WEEKEND**

Immaculate Conception and St. Dominic’s annual Harvest Weekend is being held on October 23rd and 24th at Immaculate Conception in Brookville.

Kettle cooked Apple Butter will be made on Saturday, October 23rd. Apple Butter, Gourmet Caramel apples, and Apple Dumplings will be available for sale after the 5:15pm Mass at Immaculate Conception Church on Saturday. A Stuffed Pork Chop Dinner will be offered on Sunday, October 24th, beginning at 11:15am. Take-out only. Cost of the dinner is \$10.



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WEEKLY OFFERTORY ANALYSIS October 17, 2021 SACRIFICIAL GIVING MEANS 10%		Catholic Services Appeal 2021	
Church Offertory		2021 Diocesan Assessment \$76,000.00	
<i>Envelope amt</i>	711	Total Parish Goal \$126,000.00	
<i>Adm. Fundraising Return</i>	191	Pledged Amt: \$91,255.00	
Ad-1	\$5,520.15	Paid on Pledge: \$87,124.05	
Holy Day	\$30.00	Unpaid Pledges: \$4,130.95	
Children	\$6.00	Unpledged Donations: \$15,649.77	
Unass	\$395.00	Collected to Date: \$102,773.32	
Monthly	\$190.00		
Total	\$6,441.15		
<i>Weekly Goal</i>	\$8,000.00		
Services (13x 10)	(\$1,558.85)		
Accumulated(+/-)	\$11,142.61		

Readings for the Week of October 24, 2021

- Sunday: Jer 31:7-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/
Heb 5:1-6/Mk 10:46-52
- Monday: Rom 8:12-17/Ps 68:2 and 4, 6-7ab, 20-21 [21a]/Lk 13:10-17
- Tuesday: Rom 8:18-25/Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6 [3a]/Lk 13:18-21
- Wednesday: Rom 8:26-30/Ps 13:4-5, 6 [6a]/
Lk 13:22-30
- Thursday: Eph 2:19-22/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5a]/
Lk 6:12-16
- Friday: Rom 9:1-5/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/
Lk 14:1-6
- Saturday: Rom 11:1-2a, 11-12, 25-29/Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 17-18 [14a]/Lk 14:1, 7-11
- Next Sunday: Dt 6:2-6/Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51 [2]/
Heb 7:23-28/Mk 12:28b-34

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