

“THEN THEY WILL SEE THE SON OF MAN COMING IN A CLOUD WITH POWER AND GREAT GLORY.” - LK 21:27

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

Mass Intentions for This Week

Saturday, November 27

4:30 p.m. William C. Anderson --
Jessie, Billy, Corrie & Amy Anderson

Sunday, November 28

8:00 a.m. Shirley Bosak -- Rose Day
11:00 a.m. Mike Porada -- John & Barbara Mack

Monday, November 29

8:00 a.m. Rocco Pape -- Nancy & Tom Wise

Tuesday, November 30

8:00 a.m. Nancy Stello -- Family

Wednesday, December 1

8:00 a.m. James R. Manco -- Richard & Connie Venesky

Thursday, December 2

8:00 a.m. Mary Jane Gigliotti -- Family

Friday, December 3

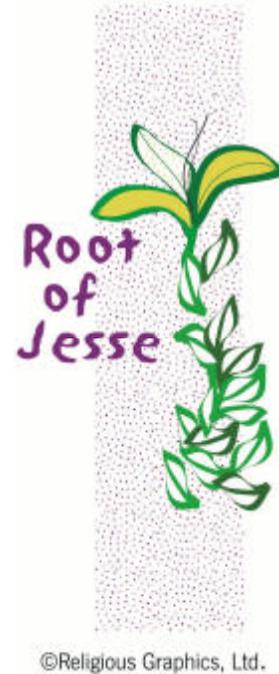
9:00 a.m. Mike Meko -- Ken & Toie Neal

Saturday, December 4

8:00 a.m. Mary E. London -- Family
4:30 p.m. Bill LaBelle -- Candy & Ernie Gigliotti

Sunday, December 5

8:00 a.m. Nick & June Sandy -- Ann & Dick Smith
11:00 a.m. Gary A. Lewis -- Bill & Margie Meenan



Monday, November 29

6:00pm -- Bible Study - Meeting Room

Thursday, December 2

6:00pm Choir Practice - Church

Tuesday, November 30

6:00pm -- Recitation of the Rosary - Church
6:00pm -- Adult Basketball - Gym

Friday, December 3 - First Friday

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

Wednesday, December 1

10:00am -- Bible Study - Meeting Room



Prepare for the
coming of the LORD

Dear Parishioners,

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."



The Advent liturgy is replete with a great longing for Christ. But John the Baptist is constantly putting in an appearance – almost to the point of irritation. What is the meaning of this?

We have to experience the *absence* of Christ in order later to experience his presence. We need to learn how to wait. Waiting is one of the hardest things for us nowadays. There is such urgency about even the smallest things in our modern world, and this of course is greatly aggravated by commercial advertising. But Advent is a four-week course on waiting.

“Zero wait state,” the computer manual said the goal was. It means no waiting at all: you press the key, and the program (or whatever) is instantly on the screen. Computers are the great accelerators of all sorts of processes (banking, accounting, shopping, etc.) and they themselves are becoming faster and faster. But for the ordinary user, such high speed is required only to run games – which are themselves the greatest timewasters in the world! The speed of our world today is full of contradictions. We *rush* to save time in order to be able to waste it!

Time is money, we say. And sure enough, we do with money what we do with time: many rush to save more and more of it in order to waste it on things they don't need or even want. Can the equation be carried even farther? Time is money; but what is time? What is your time? It is *you*; it is yourself, your life. *Time is life*. Do we save our life in order to waste it? It seems we do. “Whoever tries to save his life will lose it,” said Jesus (Luke 17:37).

We rush headlong into the future: it is a kind of greed for more and more life, or at least for more and more experience. The future, we feel, will fulfil us, where the past and present have failed. But we rush at it so fast that it gets no chance to fulfil us! We rush past it in the same instant that it becomes the present: because we are forever hurtling ourselves into the future. We badly need to study waiting.

No one can say with full clarity what the reason is (or the cluster of reasons) for the high incidence of suicide in modern western societies. People have made various suggestions. One suggestion is that we no longer know how to wait for anything. In older times, struggle and working for something and waiting for it to be realized, were the normal experience. It may be that ‘zero wait state’ has really got into us. Advent, the season of waiting, has something to teach us.

“Prepare the way of the Lord!” shouted Isaiah. He meant “Repair the road!” Jerusalem is surrounded by desert, and ancient roads quite easily became buried in sand. When some great person was expected, the roads had to be prepared.

Roads are about communication and getting around. The roads that need attention now are *inner* ones. The underlying problem is a spiritual one. The Western world is seen by many to be spiritually lost – clogged with material possessions and confused with too much information about everything. Advent is the season for unclogging the path and for putting up clearer signposts. It is a season for repairing the roads. And learning to wait.

God Bless,
Msgr. J. Riccardo

COLLECTION FOR SAINT VINCENT
DEPAUL SOCIETY



The collection on Thanksgiving Day was for the work of our own St. Vincent DePaul Society. If you didn't get a chance to drop your donation in the basket on Thanksgiving, you certainly may do so any Sunday, now or throughout the year.

The Saint Vincent DePaul Society helps more people than ever before and it is your generosity that allows the continuation of their work. Thank you!

CHANGES TO THE
COMMUNION RITE

Since 2003, the posture of the people during the Communion Rite in the Diocese of Erie has differed from the practice of most dioceses in the United States.

Since that time, much has changed. After much reflection, Bishop Lawrence Persico has determined that the time is opportune for us to:

- ◆ Return to the practice of kneeling after the singing of the Lamb of God.
- ◆ Once the people return after receiving Holy Communion, they may kneel or be seated.
- ◆ All will stand at the "Let us pray" for the prayer after Communion.

This restored practice is intended to help to unify posture and assist those parishioners who are unable to stand for long periods of time, as well as bring our practice into union with our neighboring dioceses. Those who are unable to kneel should feel free to sit instead.

This directive goes into effect the First Sunday of Advent, 4:00pm on Saturday, November 27, 2021.



We are again sponsoring an **Angel Tree Project** at SSCD.

The Angel Tree will be in church beginning this weekend, November 27/28.

If you would like to take part in our project, please select an angel from the tree. Information about a particular child will be printed on each angel. You will then purchase a gift for that child, wrap your gift, securely fasten the angel to the outside of the package, and place the wrapped gift under the tree by December 12th.

Thank you for helping to make Christmas a little brighter for a child!



Friday of this week, December 3rd, is the first  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 December is that, throughout this Advent season, we will prayerfully prepare for the coming of the Lord.

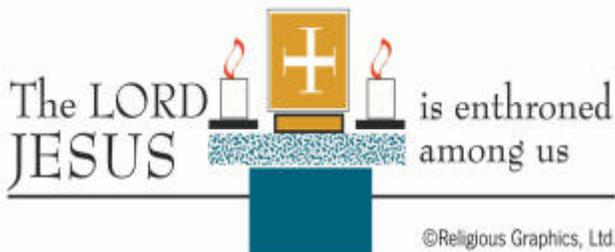
Please plan to come and spend some time in adoration of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament on First Friday. Sign-up sheets are posted in church.





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.



“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.



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 are available at the church and school offices.

As of November 18, the prize amounts to \$3,495.00. Watch it grow!

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



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. Keep Scrip in mind when purchasing gift cards for Christmas gifts!

Thank you for supporting SSCD School through your participation in the Scrip Program.

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

November 28, 2021

LEARN

ADVENT SERIES

This Advent prepare your heart through this exploration of the mystery of the Incarnation, the Virgin Birth, and the events surrounding the arrival of Jesus Christ.



To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

Download **FORMED** at no cost to you:

- Go to formed.org/signup
- Select our parish
- Register with your name and email address
- Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED

ENGAGEMENT ENCOUNTER

The Marriage and Family Life Office is hosting an Engagement Encounter weekend January 28-30, 2022. Engagement Encounter is a restful retreat designed to provide engaged couples the tools for a happy, holy, and lasting marriage. The weekend provides time as a couple to focus on your relationship, a community that prays and has fun together, a non-judgmental atmosphere, the chance to set a good foundation for your marriage, and the opportunity to retreat from busy wedding details and enjoy each other. Learn more or register at <https://www.eriecd.org/familylifeoffice/ee.html>. We would love to welcome you this January!



PRE-CANA

For those planning to be married in 2022, Pre-Cana will be held at SS. Cosmas & Damian on Sunday, February 20 from 10am - 5pm in Wienker Hall.

If you wish to register for this session of Pre-Cana, please call the office, 814-938-6540.

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 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.

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.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Anyone wishing to make a donation toward the cost of the flowers for Christmas may do so anytime between now and Christmas.

There is an envelope in your packets for this purpose. If you are making your donation in memory of a loved one, just write his/her name on the envelope. A list will be posted in church on Christmas.



SANCTUARY CLEANERS THIS WEEK

Debbie Rougeux, Pat Rougeux, Karen Burkett

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.

SAINT VINCENT DePAUL WEEKLY FOOD DONATION

Food donation next Sunday, **December 5 - Macaroni and Cheese**. Thank you for your support!

SAINT VINCENT DePAUL VOLUNTEERS
Saturday, December 4 -

Rick and Mary Beth Bosak



JOIN THE CHOIR!

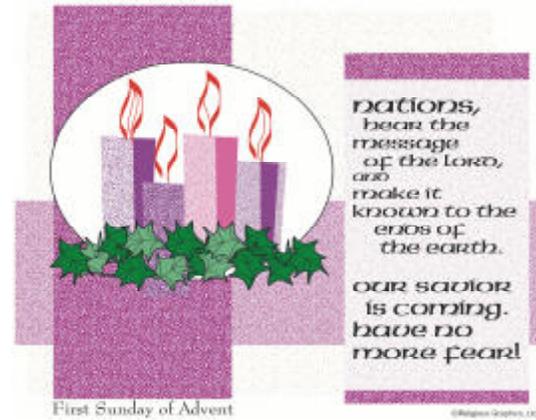
We sing at Sunday Masses September through May and other special occasions throughout the year. Rehearsals are held most Thursdays from 6:00 - 7:30pm

We'd love for you to join us.



Oplatki, or Christmas Wafers, are now available in the office. The wafer, bearing a simple design commemorative of Christ's birth, is broken by the head of the family and distributed to each member at the Christmas Vigil meal. A simple prayer for God's grace and the welfare of the present and absent members of the family is said as the wafer is distributed.

Just stop in the office during regular business hours to pick up a package of Christmas Wafers along with information about this tradition and suggestions for the prayer. The cost is \$3.00.



MARIANNA'S HOAGIES AND PIZZA



Our school is taking orders for Marianna's Hoagies and Pizzas.

There are several varieties of 14" hoagies and 12" pizzas to choose from. Cost of each item is just \$8.50.

Orders must be in the school office by December 6th and delivery will be on December 16th.

Call or stop in the school to place your order. All proceeds benefit our school. Thank you for your support!

ALL LECTORS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

If you would like to be placed back on the schedule for weekend Masses please call the office, 814-938-6540, extension 2210 or email sscdofc@comcast.net

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

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 28, 2021

- Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent
- Tuesday: St. Andrew, Apostle
- Friday: St. Francis Xavier, Priest
- Saturday: St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church
- Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent

WEEKLY OFFERTORY ANALYSIS November 14, 2021 SACRIFICIAL GIVING MEANS 10%		Catholic Services Appeal 2021	
Church Offertory		2021 Diocesan Assessment \$76,000.00	
Kindergarten	711	Total Parish Goal \$126,000.00	
Adult Parishes Returned	202		
Adult	\$6,479.00	Pledged Amt:	\$91,255.00
Holy Day	\$55.00	Paid on Pledge:	\$88,504.65
Clerical	\$9.00	Unpaid Pledge:	\$2,750.35
Traffic	\$262.00	Unpledged Donations:	\$17,326.80
Monthly	\$420.00	Collected to Date:	\$105,831.15
Total	\$7,225.00		
Weekly Goal	\$8,000.00		
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$775.00)		
Accumulated (+/-) Goal	\$10,703.71 <i>Under goal!</i>		

Readings for the Week of November 28, 2021

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12—4:2/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 [1b]/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

©LPi

McCabe Funeral Home Inc

114 Maple Ave. • Punxsutawney, PA 15767
Andrew R. Philliber
 Supervisor/ F.D.

Lisa J. Waldron
 Funeral Director

814-938-0400

"Providing families the best care at their worst time."

LOWMASTER & WARDEN
 THE LIFETIME SERVICE
Appliance Sales, Service & Parts
 17444 Route 36
 Punxsutawney, PA 15767
814-938-7420
 Free Lifetime Service
 www.Lowmasterandwardeninc.com

NEKO'S
 Our Specialty is serving you!
 Take out available
814-938-0338
 Hours: 11:00-9:00pm • Monday - Saturday
 206 Elk Run Ave • Punxsutawney
 Parishioner

Since 1976!
Burke Sons
 "The Window Specialists"
 Quality Window & Door Products
 FREE ESTIMATES
938-7303
 www.burke-sons.com
 110 GASKILL AVE. PUNXSUTAWNEY

McDonald's
 "Filet-O-Fish"
 (Buy one, get one **FREE**)
 Expires 2/28/22
 Good only McDonald's of Clarion, Brookville & Punxsutawney, PA

Howard Hanna
Allemand Realty
 938-9667
 www.allemandrealty.com

Deeley
 FUNERAL HOME, INC.
 We Offer...PRE-ARRANGEMENTS and FUNERAL PLANNING
 Alex J. Park, Supervisor
 William C. Deeley Douglas A. Deeley
938-5400
 "A Family Serving Families"

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME!
ADVERTISE HERE NOW!
 Contact **Tim Weir** to place an ad today!
 tweir@4LPi.com or (800) 477-4574 x6568

AUTO • HOME • HEALTH • LIFE • BUSINESS
SHIELDS INSURANCE
 SINCE 1941
(814) 938-5291
 www.shieldsinsurance.com

Medicine Shoppe & PHARMACY
 Now With 2 Locations to Better Serve You
 132 W. Mahoning St. Punxsutawney, PA
814-938-3077
 200 Prushnok Dr., Ste. 102 Punxsutawney, PA
814-618-5957
 Pharmacists & Parishioners
 Mike & Kim Horner
 Joe Presloid

Lily's RESTAURANT AND bakery
DAILY SPECIALS
814-938-9419
 535 W. Mahoning St.
 PUNXSUTAWNEY

RALPH A. CARDAMONE, M.D., F.A.C.C.
Board Certified Cardiologist
 (814) 765-7577 10 South Second St. • Clearfield, PA 16830

MIDTOWN AUTO PARTS
NAPA AUTO PARTS • Parts • Paint • Hoses and Much More
814-938-6363 110 South Gilpin St., Punxsutawney
 LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED. YOUR MONEY STAYS HERE!

WE'RE HIRING
AD SALES EXECUTIVES
 BE YOURSELF. BRING YOUR PASSION. WORK WITH PURPOSE.
 • Work-Life Balance • Paid Training
 • Full-Time with Benefits • Some Travel
 • Serve Your Community
 Contact us at: careers@4lpi.com | www.4lpi.com/careers

Smith, Nale & Co., Inc.
 Certified Public Accountants
A Full Service Accounting Firm!
 We give the service and attention your Business deserves
 Competent • Confidential • Committed
327 N. Main Street, Punxsutawney
814-938-3555 | www.smithnaleandco-cpas.com

Excellent Service
 YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW
 Celebrating life, one family at a time.
 115 E. Union St., Punxsutawney, PA
(814) 938-5421
 ShumakerFH.com
 Brenda Shumaker, Supervisor
Shumaker
 FUNERAL HOME

Nosker Insurance
 Coverage for your most important needs
Karen S. Nosker
 Owner
 Phone: 814-328-2203
 Cell: 814-541-0221
 Fax: 814-328-2978
 Email: karen_nosker@us.aflac.com

Roseman's Florist
 Arrangements for all Occasions
 126 W Mahoning St.
(814) 938-7364
 Mark & Bobbi Young
 Parishioners

Mahoning Valley Milling Co., Inc.
 Family Owned for Over 100 Years
 Feed Store - Lawn & Garden Supplies
 Hunting-Fishing-Camping Supplies
814-938-8850
 Mon-Fri: 8-5 Sat: 8-3
 324 Indiana St. Ext. Punxsutawney, PA 15767
 www.MahoningValleyMilling.com

Over 118 Years Old
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #452
 Punxsutawney

Auto - Home - Life - Farm
MAHONING INSURANCE ASSOCIATES LLC
Medicare Health Plans
 107 E. Mahoning St., Punxsutawney
814.618.5756
 www.mahoning-insurance.com

For All Your Building Needs
 814-603-4381
GEMMELL CONSTRUCTION
 Est. 1990 | Punxsutawney, PA
Rob Gemmell, Parishioner
814-603-4381