

*"ALL FLESH SHALL SEE THE SALVATION OF GOD." - LK 3:6*

2<sup>ND</sup> 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](http://www.sscdchurch.com)**

Mass Intentions for This Week

Saturday, December 4

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, December 6

8:00 a.m. John W. Fairman -- Sister, Rose Day and Sons

Tuesday, December 7

8:00 a.m. Robert E. Kotula, Jr. -- Sandra L. Kotula

7:00 p.m. (*Tuesday*) Deceased of the B.E. Henry  
and Joseph Eggleston Families -- Estate

Wednesday **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

9:00 a.m. (*Wednesday*) David Smith, Jr. -- Zeke Smith

Thursday, December 9

8:00 a.m. Jennie & Anthony Villella -- Family

Friday, December 10

8:00 a.m. Giacomo Casucci -- Rosemary Werner

Saturday, December 11

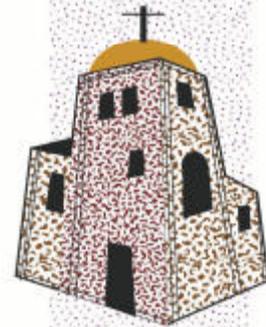
4:30 p.m. Paul & Dora Huth -- Mike Huth

Sunday, December 12

8:00 a.m. Joseph R. Gigliotti -- Family

11:00 a.m. Michael S. Skarbek -- T. J. Neal

Rise up  
JERUSALEM  
stand upon  
the  
heights



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THE  
WEEK  
AHEAD

Sunday, December 5

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

9:15am -- Confirmation Class

Monday, December 6

7:00pm -- K of C Council -  
Reschini Hall

Tuesday, December 7

6:00pm -- Bible Study - Meeting Room

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

6:00pm -- Adult Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, December 8

10:00am -- Bible Study - Meeting Room

Thursday, December 9

6:00pm -- Choir Practice - Church

Sunday, December 12

8:00am -- Religious Education Retreat, Gr 4-6

9:15am -- Religious Education, K-3 and 7-10

3:00pm -- Penance Service



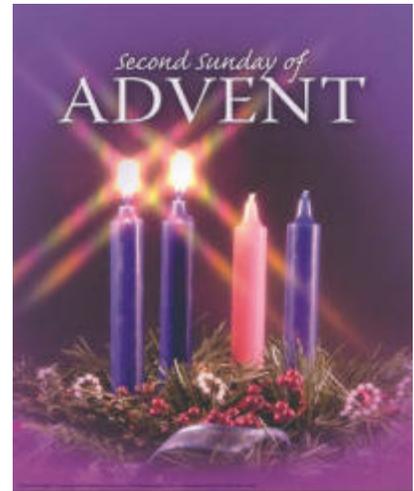
Come  
LORD JESUS

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Dear Parishioners:

*In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,*

*"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"*



“From shadows and symbols to the truth,” This was the personal motto of John Henry Newman (1801-1890). Since ancient times Christian writers have used this expression, and others like it, to place Jesus in relation to the prophets who went before him. In him there is a coming out into the light after the long night of darkness and half-light; he is “the loving-kindness of the heart of our God who visits us like the dawn from on high” (Lk 1:78).

But the coming of this Light is a more precise event than dawn. The birth of Jesus, though we may not know its precise hour or date or even its year, is an historical event, and so it is precise in principle. Luke seems insistent on pinning it down, in the cumbersome way that people dated events in the ancient world: “In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, etc.” This insistence on real history sets our faith in contrast with some other profound faiths. In the Rig-Veda, for example, you read:

*Like a youthful maiden, Dawn shines brightly forth, Stirring to motion every living creature. Divine Fire was kindled for human use; Dawn created light, driving away the dark.*

The Prologue to John's gospel sounds equally elevated – until it comes to the words “the Word was made flesh and lived among us” (1:14). But Luke's gospel in particular paints in the humble details of Christ's birth. And it is Luke's gospel that we are reading on the Sundays of Advent this year.

Light can be contemplated for itself, but its practical purpose is to illuminate a path. Ultimately it is “to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” (Lk 1:79). As members of Christ's body, the Church, we are living through a time of great crisis. The road ahead often looks dark and frightening. We don't know what it will be like in another generation, or even in another decade. We need light, which gives us courage to move in dark times. Many are frightened and discouraged, and even plunged into despair. But that light is guaranteed. Christ promised to be always with us. “I will not leave you orphaned” (Jn 14:18). He did not promise that everything would be clear and easy. Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP often notes that the Church was born in crisis (the death of Jesus was a shocking crisis for the disciples); from the earliest times it has known one crisis after another; so, in living with crisis, he says, “we are being faithful to tradition!”

We use the expression “losing one's faith”. It would be good if we realized that losing one's hope is just as serious a matter as losing one's faith and losing one's love, for these three – faith, hope, and love – are one; and to lose one is to lose the others as well.

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!



*Rest In Peace*

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR  
PRAYERS

Anna Smocek of our parish; Donald "Shag" Slovinsky Jr. of our parish; Anna Marie Andel and Rosemarie Dressman, sisters of Joseph Presloid of our parish; and Denise Mary Pifer, sister of Dolores Toven, Rita Spack, and Patty Mock of our parish, all of whom died recently.

Please keep them and their families in your prayers. May their souls rest in peace.



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**W**e are again sponsoring an Angel Tree Project at SSCD.

If you are taking 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!



**O**platki, or Christmas Wafers, are now available in the office.

The wafer, bearing a 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.

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.



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](http://sscdchurch.com), and click the link on Sundays at 11am to join.

If you have any questions, just call the office.

### ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

There will be several opportunities for you to receive the Sacrament of Penance during Advent beginning next Sunday, December 12th. Penance services have been scheduled at the following parishes. Several priests will be available at each to hear individual confessions.

Please take advantage of the Penance Services and don't wait until the last minute. The only other scheduled confessions will be the regular confession times at each parish.

- ◇ **Sunday, Dec 12th, 3pm - SSCD**
- ◇ Monday, December 13th, 7pm  
Assumption Parish, Sykesville
- ◇ Tuesday, December 14th, 7pm  
Immaculate Conception, Brookville
- ◇ Thursday, December 16th, 7pm  
St. Tobias, Brockway
- ◇ Sunday, December 22nd, 3pm  
St. Catherine, DuBois



## 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 30th the prize amounts to \$4,670! 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!

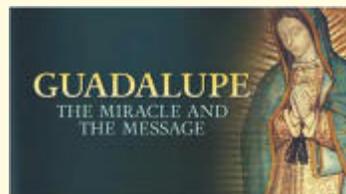
Thank you for supporting SSCD School through your participation in the Scrip Program.

## FORMED

### **GUADALUPE: THE MIRACLE AND THE MESSAGE**

As we celebrate the patroness of the Americas this week, enjoy this film narrated by Jim Caviezal that walks us through our Mother's miraculous appearance to Juan Diego - an encounter that has converted millions.

### PICK OF THE WEEK



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

- Go to [formed.org/signup](http://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.eriercd.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.

“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.



Our heartfelt thanks to all who helped with this year’s Christmas Bazaar. The generous gift of your time helped to make this year’s Bazaar a great success! Thank you to all of our talented vendors, dedicated parents, and generous volunteers who made this such a wonderful event. Special thanks to Dan Prutzal and Mike Gmys for all their hard work. All of your contributions are truly appreciated. We are especially grateful to those who came to shop! It was a wonderful way to start the Christmas season!

The winner of the beautiful Nativity donated by Pat and Pam Defelice is Brenda Mattis of Clymer. Congratulations to the winner!

PRAYER CHAIN

To add a name to the Prayer Chain, call Pat Rougeux, 814-938-4464. If you are unable to reach her you may call the office weekdays 9am - 4pm.

**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 are ready to be placed back on the schedule for weekend Masses please call the office, 814-938-6540, extension 2210 or email [sscdofc@comcast.net](mailto:sscdofc@comcast.net)

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

**SANCTUARY CLEANERS THIS WEEK**

Bob Henretta, Katie Roberts, Rita Yenzi

**SAINT VINCENT DePAUL WEEKLY FOOD DONATION**

Food donation next Sunday, **December 12 - Boxed Au gratin Potatoes.** Thank you for your support!

**SAINT VINCENT DePAUL VOLUNTEERS**

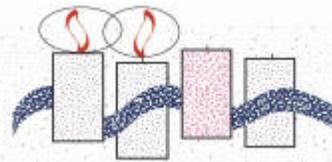
**Saturday, December 11 -**

Frank & Julie Mondini and Gina Bryant

**CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

Thank you for your generous support in the recent collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development!

Your donations of \$1,375.00 will help to support those on the margins who live in poverty in the United States.



**OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 5, 2021**

- Sunday:** 2nd Sunday of Advent
- Monday:** St. Nicholas, Bishop
- Tuesday:** St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Wednesday:** The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Thursday:** St. Juan Diego Cusuhutlatotzin
- Friday:** Our Lady of Loreto
- Saturday:** St. Damasus I, Pope
- Next Sunday:** 3rd Sunday of Advent

WEEKLY OFFERTORY ANALYSIS November 28, 2021 SACRIFICIAL GIVING MEANS 10%		Catholic Services Appeal 2021	
<b>Church Offertory</b>		2021 Diocesan Assessment \$760,000.00	
<i>Liturgical Lent</i>	711	Total Parish Goal \$126,000.00	
<i>Liturgical Eucharist</i>	175		
<b>Adult</b>	\$5,472.00	<b>Pledged Amt:</b>	\$91,255.00
Holy Day	\$60.00	<b>Paid on Pledge:</b>	\$88,814.65
Christmas	\$50.00	<b>Unpaid Pledges:</b>	\$2,440.35
Children	\$8.00	<b>Unpledged Donations:</b>	\$18,190.88
Love	\$400.00	<b>Collected to Date:</b>	\$107,005.53
Monthly	\$730.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,760.00</b>		
<i>Weekly Gift</i>	\$8,000.00		
Supplies (Extra)	(\$1,240.00)		
<b>Accumulated (-)</b>	<b>\$13,477.66</b>		
<i>Goal</i>	<i>Final goal</i>		

**Readings for the Week of December 5, 2021**

- 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
- Monday:** Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday:** Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 [cf. Is 40:10ab]/Mt 18:12-14
- Wednesday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
- Thursday:** Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15
- Friday:** Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- Next Sunday:** Zep 3:14-18a/Is12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

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