



"HE WILL BAPTIZE YOU WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE."
- LK 3:16

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTORY 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, 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

Monday, December 13

8:00 a.m. Evelyn Miller -- Alan & Michele Pifer

Tuesday, December 14

8:00 a.m. Frank & Anna Molnar -- Family

Wednesday, December 15

8:00 a.m. Paul Baranich -- Bernadette Roney

Thursday, December 16

8:00 a.m. Deceased of the Zatsick and Marino Families

-- Cathy Smith

Friday, December 17

9:00 a.m. Jeff LaBelle -- Tom & Nancy Wise

Saturday, December 18

4:30 p.m. Todd Covert -- Sam Farcus Family

Sunday, December 19

8:00 a.m. Jim Ranieri -- Wife, Rose

11:00 a.m. Carol Schultz -- Anita Bowser



©Religious Graphics, Ltd.



Sunday, December 12

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

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

3:00pm -- Penance Service

Monday, December 13

6:00pm -- Bible Study - Meeting Room

Tuesday, December 14

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

6:00pm -- Adult Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, December 15

10:00am -- Bible Study - Meeting Room

Thursday, December 16

6:00pm -- Choir Practice - Church

Sunday, December 19

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

9:15am -- Confirmation Class

REJOICE
Daughter Jerusalem
Be glad with all your heart

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

Dear Parishioners:

The crowds asked John, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Advent is a time of waiting. This is a difficult art to learn in a world that now tends to move with ever-increasing speed. You would think that all our time-saving devices would have left us by now with a vast capital of spare time. But the opposite is the case. We have less time than ever. Blaise Pascal famously said that all our troubles come from our being unable to sit still in a room for five minutes. He lived in the 17th century; what would he say to us now, when computers have increased the speed of life a thousand-fold? (But he should take some of the blame: it was he who invented the first mechanical adding machine; and a computer programming language was named after him.) Learning to stop and be still and wait is not a luxury; it is now a matter of survival.

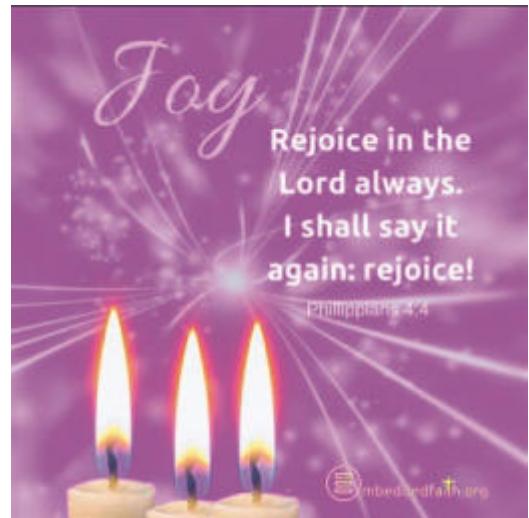
Our way with food can be a good indicator of our way with many other things. A greedy person doesn't know how to wait but has a blind compulsion to eat, a compulsion that is unrelated to hunger and even to enjoyment. Greed doesn't even see what lies before it, and so it never knows any surprise. It is waiting that gives flavor to food, and to our life too.

Advent is about the possibility of surprise. Not some self-indulgent expectation ("surprise me!"), but a dawning awareness that my life as I know it is only a shadow of what it is meant to be. We are often told that we use only a small percentage of our brain's capability. If this is so, why should we not suspect that we are using an even smaller percentage of our spirit's capacity? All our frenzy of living will not help us to use more of it, but rather less.

There is a kind of frenzy about John the Baptist. He is rough and violent in his speech. And you wouldn't want to be anywhere near him if you were a locust. Yet for all his vehemence (or because of it), his message is rather conventional: "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.... Be content with your pay." He has none of the depth or the stillness of Jesus. He is not a man to give you time or space. You feel he doesn't see anything in you. Most people are "chaff" to him (as they were to the scribes and Pharisees), but for Jesus they are "harvest" (Luke 10:2; see December 4). Harvest is something you have to wait for, but you can make chaff of anything right away.

We have to learn to wait for the harvest: not a harvest of our own devising, but God's gift.

God Bless!
Msgr. J. Riccardo



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC FAMILY OF THE PUNXSUTAWNEY AREA



If you are taking part in our Angel Tree Project, your gifts should be placed under our tree by today, Sunday, **December 12th**. Please wrap your gift and securely fasten the angel to the outside of the package.

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



Oplatki, 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.



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.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

There will be several opportunities for you to receive the Sacrament of Penance during Advent beginning today, 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 19th, 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 still available at the church and school offices.

If you have tickets to turn in, they can be dropped off at the office this week.

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



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.

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.



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 SSDC School through your participation in the Scrip Program.



PICK OF THE WEEK

Nobly-born, wealthy, captivating, and headstrong, Teresa de Ahumada was an unlikely timber for a great work of renovation. After many years of complacent living, she spent the last twenty years of her life in a whirlwind of activity as the founder of the Discalced or reformed branch of the Carmelites in Spain.

Both St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Ávila lived heroic lives of prayer. In honor of these spiritual masters, enjoy this film depicting the Carmelite way of life and the virtue of perseverance.

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

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC FAMILY OF THE PUNXSUTAWNEY AREA

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.



RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS



Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others - educating the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate.

Today, many are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more.

Please give generously to today's second collection. Thank you!

"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.



AMERICAN FLAGS

If you have a larger-sized American Flag that you don't need, please consider donating it to our parish.

The flags that fly on the pole in front of the rectory need to be replaced rather frequently due to wind damage, etc.

If you have one to donate, you can just drop it off at the rectory office at anytime. Thank you!

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.

SANCTUARY CLEANERS THIS WEEK

Sandy Hinderliter, Mary Claire Johnston, Arlene Stewart, Dorothy Vilkinofsky

SAINT VINCENT DePAUL WEEKLY FOOD DONATION

Food donation next Sunday, **December 19** - **Boxed Scalloped Potatoes**. Thank you for your support!

SAINT VINCENT DePAUL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday, December 18 -

Sam & Terri Puleio and Bessie Depp



ENVELOPE COLLECTION FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS

I am again asking for your assistance in keeping our budget for the year. Please consider a \$20.00 offertory contribution for Christmas or New Years – or both.

Your help in the past has made a significant difference. Thank you.

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

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

TWO EASY WAYS TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR PARISH!

Visit our Parish Website anytime at
www.sscdchurch.com

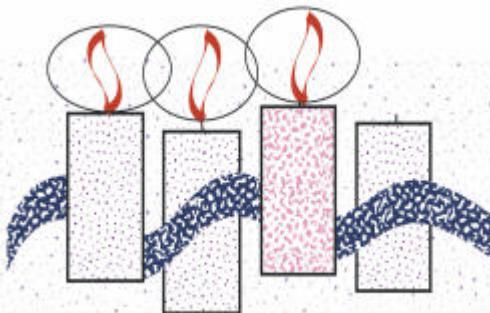
Download Our NEWEST App!

iPhone users Text:

ParishApp1 to 800-950-9952

Android Users Text:

ParishApp2 to 800-950-9952



OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 12, 2021

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Monday: St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Tuesday: St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent

WEEKLY OFFERTORY ANALYSIS December 5, 2021 SACRIFICIAL GIVING MEANS 10%

Church Offertory	
Envelopes sent	711
Adult Envelopes Returned	202
Adult	\$7,002.00
Holy Day	\$335.00
Christmas	\$140.00
Children	\$9.00
Loose	\$256.05
Monthly	\$915.00
Total	\$8,657.05
Weekly Goal	\$8,000.00
Surplus (Deficit)	\$657.05
Accumulated(+/-) Goal	\$12,820.61 <i>Under goal</i>

Catholic Services Appeal 2021

2021 Diocesan Assessment	\$76,000.00
Total Parish Goal	
	\$126,000.00
Pledged Amt:	\$91,255.00
Paid on Pledge:	\$89,009.65
Unpaid Pledges:	\$2,245.35
Unpledged Donations:	\$18,943.90
Collected to Date:	\$107,953.55

Readings for the Week of December 12, 2021

- Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/
Lk 3:10-18
- Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9
[4]/Mt 21:23-27
- Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 2
3 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32
- Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12,
13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23
- Thursday: Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a, and 13b
[2a]/Lk 7:24-30
- Friday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/
Mt 1:1-17
- Saturday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/
Mt 1:18-25
- Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/
Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-4

©LPI

McCabe Funeral Home Inc

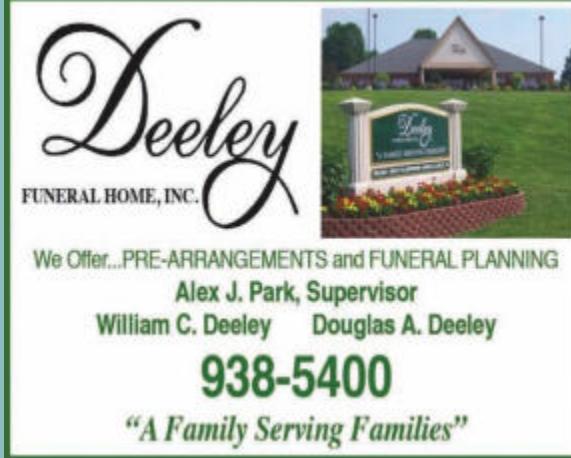
Andrew R. Philliber
Supervisor/F.D.

114 Maple Ave. • Punxsutawney, PA 15767

814-938-0400

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

Lisa J. Waldron
Funeral Director



RALPH A. CARDAMONE, M.D., F.A.C.C. Board Certified Cardiologist

(814) 765-7577

10 South Second St. • Clearfield, PA 16830

