



“BLESSED ARE YOU AMONG WOMEN, AND BLESSED IS
THE FRUIT OF YOUR WOMB.” - LK 1:42

4TH 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, 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. Carole Schultz -- Anita Bowser

Monday, December 20

8:00 a.m. Rose Spinelli Zarecky -- Gene & Patti Spinelli

Tuesday, December 21

8:00 a.m. Christine Ingros -- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Fairman

Wednesday, December 22

8:00 a.m. James C. Helman -- Anita Bowser

Thursday, December 23

8:00 a.m. Joey Schroeder -- William Hampton Family

December 24 - Christmas Eve:

4:30 p.m. Polly Hallman -- Family

9:00 p.m. Intention of the Celebrant

CHRISTMAS MASSES

December 25 - Christmas Morning:

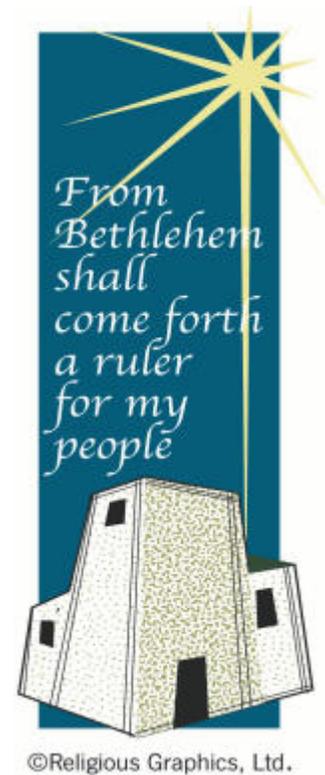
8:00 a.m. Rosemary Esposito and Deceased of
Joseph & Julia Esposito Family -- Estate

10:00 a.m. Vickie Snyder --
Tom & Mary Lou Brown & Family

Sunday, December 26

8:00 a.m. Parishioners

10:00 a.m. Matthew Bembenick --
Dorothy Pisarcik and Mary Ann & Sam Baker



Sunday, December 19

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

9:15am -- Confirmation Class

Monday, December 20

6:00pm -- Bible Study - Meeting Room

Tuesday, December 21

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

6:00pm -- Adult Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, December 22

10:00am -- Bible Study - Meeting Room

Thursday, December 23

6:00pm -- Choir Practice - Church

AVE, MARIA
gratia plena
Dominus tecum

Hail, Mary
full of grace
the Lord is with thee

Dear Parishioners:

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

The dramatis personae don't lead us to expect anything revolutionary. They are an old woman and a young girl. Both are to give birth, true, and the birth of a child is always a potential revolution. There is an indication that something is going to be different here: the old woman is really beyond the age of childbearing (Lk 1:7) and the young girl wasn't expected to be there yet (Mt 1:18).

But the revolutionary language of Mary's Magnificat takes us by surprise. "He scatters the proud-hearted... he casts the mighty from their thrones and raises the lowly... he fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty...." If we really heard these words (which means hearing them addressed to oneself) we would be part of the revolution. But when we imagine them addressed only to others, we turn them into an ideology, and we turn ourselves into observers.

Addressed to oneself.... Who is 'oneself' in the Church? Our deepest identity is not our personal ego but our identity within the Body of Christ. "We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members of one another" (Romans 12:5). The Magnificat is not only a call to the individual to turn his or her life around; it is a call to the Church to live by the Gospel.

In all three Liturgical cycles Mary makes her appearance today, the fourth Sunday of Advent. It is as if the picture is becoming clearer: in the previous Sundays we heard from Isaiah and John the Baptist, now we hear from Mary herself in whom the waiting is localized precisely. It is important to know how to wait. There are many ways of waiting: look at a bus queue and you will see them all. There is the restless impatient waiting of the person who regards waiting as a pure waste of time. There is the stoical waiting of the person who endures it by escaping inwards to another world. Perhaps what Mary teaches us is that the only fruitful kind of waiting is the waiting that an expectant mother does. You know from looking that she has her center of meaning already within her. She is waiting, but for something that is already here: she is waiting for the full flowering, and there is no impatience and no desire to escape. This is how we might learn to wait for everything. This is the kind of waiting that is Advent.

God Bless!

Msgr. J. Riccardo





*Christmas Mass
Schedule*

**** Christmas Eve ****

4:30pm Vigil Mass

9:00pm Evening Mass -
*preceded by Hymns and Carols
beginning at 8:30pm, featuring our
Choir and Instrumentalists*

**** Christmas Morning ****

8:00 and 10:00am Masses

*The 9pm and 10am Masses will be live
streamed via the link found at
sscdchurch.com*

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

The final area Penance Service before Christmas is being held this afternoon, Sunday, December 19th, at 3pm at St. Catherine, DuBois.

There will be several priests available for individual confessions.

- ◇ Sunday, December 19, 3pm
St. Catherine, DuBois



Christmas Cash
GIVEAWAY!

The Christmas Cash Raffle drawing will be held this Monday, December 20th at 2pm!

If you still have tickets to turn in, they must be in the office by this Monday morning.

If you wish to purchase any additional tickets, just stop in the office on Monday morning.

The drawing will take place at 2pm, Monday, December 20th, at the school.

Our lucky winner will be announced in the January 2nd bulletin. Good luck and thank you for your support!



Oplatki, or Christmas Wafers, are 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 Oplatki along with information about this tradition and suggestions for the prayer. Cost is \$3.00.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Anyone wishing to make a donation toward the cost of the flowers for Christmas may still do so. *In order to be included on the list which will be posted in church on Christmas, please have your donations in to the office Tuesday morning, December 21.*

If you are making your donation in memory of a loved one, just write his/her name on the envelope.



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.

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.





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.



Rest In Peace

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Ronald Infantino of our parish who passed away in the last week.

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

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 for last minute Christmas gifts!

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

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.eriecfd.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.

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.

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

December 19, 2021

WATCH

**CHRISTMAS IN ROME:
A CELEBRATION OF THE NATIVITY**
Nowhere celebrates the birth of the Savior like Rome. This Christmas, marvel at the Holy City's festive celebration of the coming of the child Jesus in Bethlehem.



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

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.



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

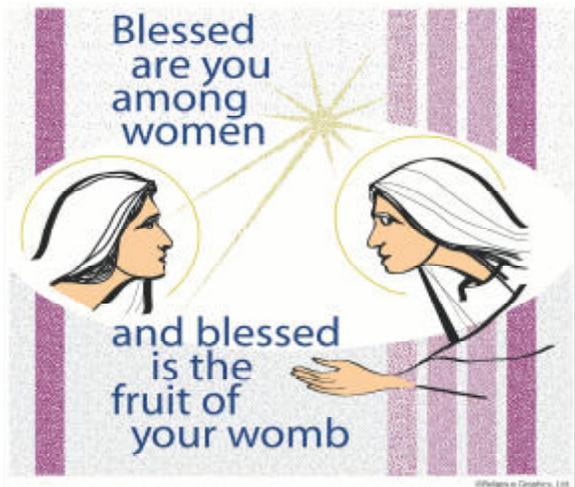
To add a name to the Prayer Chain, call Pat Rougeux, 814-938-4464. If you are unable to reach her you may call the office weekdays 9am - 4pm.

SANCTUARY CLEANERS THIS WEEK

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

SAINT VINCENT DePAUL WEEKLY FOOD DONATION

Food donation next Sunday, **December 26 - Rice.** Thank you for your support!



PRAY FOR PRIESTS IN DIOCESE OF ERIE

A monthly calendar is published, listing a priest of the Erie Diocese on each day. We are asked to remember that priest in our prayers for that particular day.

The calendar for December can be found on the Diocesan Website at www.eriercd.org and can also be found on the tables at the entrances of the church.

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.

BEAR BREAKFAST

The Knights of Columbus would like to thank all those who helped make the Bear Breakfast a success!



Special thanks to the following:

Lily's for the donation of supplies for the breakfast; all the Knights' wives and ladies from the parish who donated baked goods; the Griebel girls for bussing tables; Tom Shaffer for donating the Sheetz gift card which was won by Bill Deeley; 50/50 winner Mike Huth who donated his winnings to the Saint Vincent DePaul and Knights of Columbus; and especially to everyone who came out to enjoy a great breakfast!

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!

SAINT VINCENT DePAUL VOLUNTEERS

The Food Bank will be closed on December 25th and January 1st. It will be open again on January 8th.

YEARLY CONTRIBUTIONS

The accounting year for contributions will end on December 31st. If you wish to have your contributions posted for 2021, please have all your envelopes and/or contributions in by that time.

2021 statements will be sent upon request.

RECTORY OFFICE

In observance of Christmas, the rectory office will be closed beginning on Friday, December 24th and will reopen on Tuesday, December 28th.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

OFFERTORY FIGURES

Due to an early bulletin publication deadline this week, the offertory figures do not appear on this page as they normally would.

The correct figures, through December 12th, will be reported in next Sunday's bulletin.

There are early bulletin deadlines for the next few weeks; however, for the bulletin of January 9th we will be caught up and will show up-to-date figures through January 2nd.



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 19, 2021

- Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Advent
- Tuesday:** St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
- Thursday:** St. John of Kanty, Priest
- Friday:** Christmas Eve
- Saturday:** The Nativity of the Lord
- Next Sunday:** The Holy Family

Readings for the Week of December 19, 2021

- Sunday:** Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/ Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45
- Monday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38
- Tuesday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
- Wednesday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56
- Thursday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66
- Friday:** Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79
- Saturday:** Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/ Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
- Night:** Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
- Dawn:** Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
- Day:** Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
- Next Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/ Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

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

Electrolux • Maytag • Whirlpool
 Amana • Speed Queen • Frigidaire

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

"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