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Ss. Cosmas & Damian Parish

616 W. Mahoning St., Punxsutawney, PA 15767
814-938-6540 www.sscdchurch.com

Mass Intentions for This Week

Sunday, December 26

8:00 a.m. Parishioners

10:00 a.m. Matthew Bembenick --

Dorothy Pisarcik and Mary Ann & Sam Baker

Monday, December 27

8:00 a.m. John "Jake" Capozzoli -- Jeanne & Bobby McAllister

Tuesday, December 28

8:00 a.m. Anthony "Zab" Constantino -- Doug & Darla Dickey

Wednesday, December 29

8:00 a.m. Paul, Ted, and Robert Starry -- Rose Day

Thursday, December 30

8:00 a.m. James Jose -- Dorothy & Toot Baker

Friday, December 31

8:00 a.m. Adam Garvin -- Mary Hoover Family

4:30 p.m. *(Friday)* Barbara McCann -- Bill & Jean Farcus

Saturday, January 1st **MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

9:00 a.m. *(Saturday)* Parishioners

4:30 p.m. Anthony DiGirolamo -- Lena, Joanie, and Joe

Sunday, January 2

8:00 a.m. Denise Pifer -- Tom & Nancy Wise

10:00 a.m. Dorothy Love Coroian -- The Bosaks



Tuesday, December 28

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

6:00pm -- Adult Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, December 29

10:00am -- Bible Study - Meeting Room



Gather our families
around your table
O, LORD

Dear Parishioners:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

There is a kind of timelessness about Christmas: it takes us out of our routines; suddenly all the rush of preparation is over and there is nothing more to do. This could be the moment to experience something different from the perpetual motion that is our ordinary life. But what happens? Perhaps we turn on the TV, which is what we may have been doing every evening since last Christmas. No change. Then we say Christmas is boring, or sad, or too commercial.... Of course, it is; it is just like all the other days. We have not allowed change to happen. We have not allowed space for anything new to appear. Paradoxically, all the flashing lights, the incessant television, the emailing and text-messaging... all have the effect of filling our lives and so leaving no space to move, no space for anything really different to appear; so, we are enclosed in a cave of artificial lights that never lead us to the sun.

“The light shines in the darkness.” But it does not shine in artificial light. We have to turn something off. We have to leave space and time for the new thing to appear.

The Child born today is God's new deed: the newest, the youngest, the latest.... But this is not announced in the excited voice of the advertisers; it is a silent deed. He is the Word made flesh, but he lies there as helpless to speak as any other infant. Only in silence can this silent Word be heard. The new blade of grass does not make a scene or a noise; neither does the Word made flesh.

The Savior is born! – not only in Bethlehem long ago, but now today in our world, in our hearts. That birth long ago, said Meister Eckhart, has this new birth as its purpose; he was born then so that he could be born now. The Light has come into the world; even darkness itself helps to announce it.

May the Blessings of the Mystery of the Incarnation be with you and your family,
Msgr. J. Riccardo



A New Year's Prayer

Gracious God,
As a new year begins, we place our trust in you.
May the time to come bring us closer to recognizing our need to love and cherish one another.
May those in power understand the importance of cultivating peace and bringing an end to war.
May those who struggle with disease, loss, poverty, and despair find light in the midst of their struggles and suffering.
And may we grow stronger in our desire to imitate the love and compassion of Jesus Christ, your Son, in whom our hope abides.
Amen.

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.

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.

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 sscdofc@comcast.net

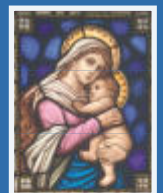
We are scheduling one Lector and two Eucharistic Ministers for each weekend Mass.

JESUS
MARY
JOSEPH

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SOLEMNITY OF MARY

The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God, January 1st, is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.



However, on this first day of the new year as we honor Mary, Masses will be celebrated on Friday, December 31 at 4:30pm and on Saturday, January 1 at 9am



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

Paul Jones, III, son of Pat Jones of our parish, who died this past 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.

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



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL VOLUNTEER'S SCHEDULE



The new schedule for FEB-2022 to JAN-2023 is being prepared. If any of our current members wish to make any changes to their status, or if you know of dates when you will be unavailable to work in the Food Bank, you are asked to contact Sam Puleio at 814-938-7693 before 1/4/2022.

If you are not currently a member of our team but have about two Saturdays a year to help out in the Food Bank, please contact Sam Puleio to be put on the schedule. Thank you!

SAINT VINCENT DePAUL WEEKLY FOOD DONATION

Food donation next Sunday, **January 2 - Bisquick**. Thank you for your support!

SAINT VINCENT DePAUL VOLUNTEERS

The Food Bank will be closed next Saturday, January 1st. It will be open as usual on January 8th.

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

Debbie Rougeux, Pat Rougeux, Karen Burkett

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

December 26, 2021

LISTEN

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY: LOVE UNVEILED
BY DR. SCOTT HAHN

This presentation combines recordings of Fulton Sheen's timeless reflections on the meaning of Christmas, mixed with Gregorian chant and seasonal music. It is sure to become a family favorite!



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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.

CHILDREN'S ENVELOPES

The 2022 envelopes for children are now available in the office.

If you would like your child to have envelopes, just call the office and envelopes will be provided.

OFFERTORY STATEMENTS

End-of-year statements will be sent upon request. You can call or email the office or place the following slip in the collection basket and it will be sent to you.

2021 Offertory Statement Request

Name _____

Address _____

Envelope Number: _____

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 January 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 or you can stop in the office.

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.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

A sister writes, “Our prayers belong most of all to the generous benefactors whose donations have made this financial assistance possible.”

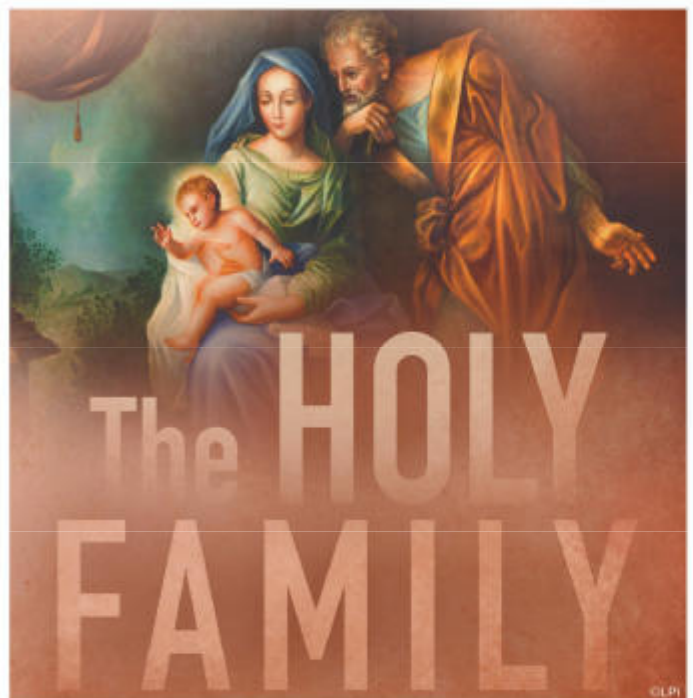
Thank you for supporting the recent Retirement Fund for Religious collection. Your donations amounted to \$1,737.55. Thank you for your generosity.

Visit retiredreligious.org to learn how your gift supports elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

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!



LORD
Bless us all
in the coming year

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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.



RECTORY OFFICE

The office will be closed on Friday of this week for the New Years holiday.



OFFERTORY FIGURES

Due to an early bulletin publication deadline this week, the offertory figures posted below are current only up to December 12th.

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

TWO EASY WAYS TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR PARISH!

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Download Our NEWEST App!

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Android Users Text: *ParishApp2* to 800-950-9952



OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 26, 2021

- Sunday:** The Holy Family
- Monday:** St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
- Tuesday:** The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
- Wednesday:** St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr
- Friday:** St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve
- Saturday:** New Year's Day; Mary, The Holy Mother of God; World Day of Peace
- Next Sunday:** The Epiphany of the Lord; Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

WEEKLY OFFERTORY ANALYSIS December 12, 2021 SACRIFICIAL GIVING MEANS LIFE		Catholic Services Appeal 2021	
Church Offertory		2021 Diocesan Assessment \$76,000.00	
<i>Homages sent</i>	7:1	Total Parish Goal \$126,000.00	
<i>Adult Homages Received</i>	205		
Adult	\$6,564.05	Pledged Amt:	\$91,255.00
Jolly Day	\$1,671.00	Paid on Pledge:	\$89,169.65
Christmas	\$25.00	Unpaid Pledges:	\$2,085.35
Children	\$11.00	Unpledged Donations:	\$19,249.92
House	\$266.00	Collected to Date:	\$108,419.57
Monthly	\$260.00		
Total	\$8,797.05		
Pledges Goal	\$8,000.00		
Surplus (Deficit)	\$797.05		
Accumulated (+/-) Goal	\$12,023.56 <i>7 weeks goal</i>		

Readings for the Week of December 26, 2021

- 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
- Monday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Tuesday:** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
- Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
- Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
- Friday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18
- Saturday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
- Next Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

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