

THEY WERE OVERJOYED AT SEEING THE STAR, AND ON
ENTERING THE HOUSE THEY SAW THE CHILD WITH MARY
HIS MOTHER.- MT 2:10

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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, January 1

4:30 p.m. Anthony Di Girolamo -- 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

Monday, January 3

8:00 a.m. Frank & Raphael Koza -- Family

Tuesday, January 4

8:00 a.m. Patricia Wehrle -- Emilia Tartaglia

Wednesday, January 5

8:00 a.m. Mrs. William Kormos -- Family

Thursday, January 6

8:00 a.m. Kevin T. Villella -- Vincent Villella Family

Friday, January 7

9:00 a.m. Anthony Caridi -- Patricia Mele

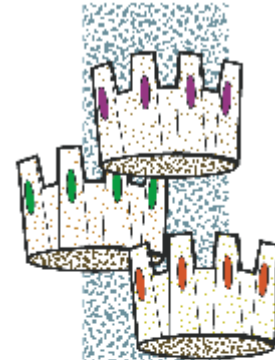
Saturday, January 8

4:30 p.m. Mary Madrid -- Lou & Elaine Scuello and
Barb Gresock

Sunday, January 9

8:00 a.m. Anna C. Smochek -- Gene & Patti Spinelli

11:00 a.m. Beverly, Jeffrey, & Jodi Tost --
Patty Manco



COME
LET US
ADORE
HIM

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Monday, January 3

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

7:45pm -- K of C Assembly -
Reschini Hall

Tuesday, January 4

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

6:00pm -- Adult Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, January 5

10:00am -- Bible Study - Meeting Room

Thursday, January 6

6:00pm -- Choir Practice - Church

Friday, January 7

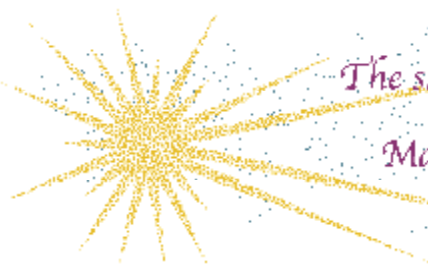
9:30am - 4pm -- Adoration of the
Blessed Sacrament - Church

Sunday, January 9

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

9:15am -- Confirmation Class

12:30pm -- C. D. of A. Holiday Luncheon -
Wienker Hall



*The shepherds went in haste
to Bethlehem and found
Mary and Joseph,
and the infant lying in the manger.*

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Dear Parishioners,

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.'

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."' Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to

Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Ours is not the first age to look east for wisdom; the East has always had a reputation for it. The word 'magi' is translated here as "wise men." 'Magus' meant different things: a magus was a member of the Persian priestly caste; or one who possessed occult knowledge and power (this is the origin of our word 'magic'). If people had the careless habit of throwing around the term 'New Age' in those times as many do now, the Magi would certainly have been called New Agers.

Herod was one of history's great tyrants: he spared no one, not even his own family; to keep his grip on power he murdered his wife, three of his sons, his brother-in-law, an uncle, and his mother-in-law. He had been appointed "King of the Jews" by the Senate in 40 BC and he had already reigned for over thirty years. He was in no mind to hear of a new king, especially one who was no son of his. "He was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him." He was frightened to hear of a rival, and the people were frightened because they knew what he was capable of. But the chief priests and the scribes – the religious authorities of the day – were able to give him directions in locating this rival. They knew in detail about the expected arrival of "the anointed one." They had studied the Scriptures, they knew the prophecies, they knew where to look. And they used all that knowledge to direct a killer to him. Nor was it just a momentary lapse of judgment: Herod would fail to kill him, but later on they would succeed.

The Magi were foreigners, pagans, astrologers: everything that was most base in the eyes of the religious authorities. Though they had not the benefit of the prophecies the Magi came and did the Child homage. Tradition calls them "kings" – judging, probably, by the wealth of the gifts they brought. At any rate they came looking for a king. Where do you look for a king? In a palace. Who else is likely to be there? A royal family. But the Magi came to a cave or a stable where they found a poor family, with animals and perhaps a few shepherds. All the appearances would have told them they had made a ridiculous mistake, yet "falling to their knees, they did him homage."

We can look at the significance of this from many angles. Preparation is no guarantee that you will be ready; it may actually blind you, because you prepare according to your own idea. There is no substitute for an open heart; learning sometimes has the effect of closing the heart, and in some cases even the mind. Religious authority is the most perilous of all: the claims are absolute, the deepest things are at stake, and with the years comes the habit of listening to no one. The most chilling feature of this story is the collusion of the religious leaders with Herod.

Later on, when simple people were shouting out their enthusiasm for John, the Pharisees said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out" (John 19:40-41). We are not to be surprised at where praise of God can spring up. It is not recorded that any of the authorities went with the Magi to search for the Child; it was the pagan astrologers who sought and found him.

God Bless!

Msgr. J. Riccardo



Our Christmas preparations and celebration were the work of so many. I would like to thank everyone for your help and cooperation.

Special thanks to our choir director and organist Toie Neal, organists Elaine Pape, Sandy Bevak, Bill Farcus, and Nicole White, and all the dedicated members of our Adult Choir and to Arlene Stewart and the talented members of the Childrens' Choir whose voices added so much to our Masses.

Thank you to our maintenance staff who have spent many hours on both our inside and outside decorations. Their hard work and talents have made our celebration of Christmas even more beautiful.

And a note of thanks to all those who have sent cookies and other Christmas goodies to the rectory. I can assure you that I have enjoyed them all! Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

If we have inadvertently forgotten someone, please know that you are appreciated.



The Christmas Cash Raffle was drawn on December 20th at the School.

The total prize amounted to \$7,282.50 and our lucky winner is Ron Canton of our parish.

Congratulations to our winner and a big thank you to all who supported this important school fundraiser! We are grateful for your support!

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 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!



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.

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.



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.





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.



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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.



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.



FIRST FRIDAY

Friday of this week, January 7, is the first Friday of the month. Confessions for the First Friday will be on Thursday following the 8am Mass.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

There will be Adoration on Friday beginning after the 9am Mass and closing at 4pm. Our special intention for this month will be that the nations of the world will work together to find lasting peace.



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

SAINT VINCENT DePAUL WEEKLY FOOD DONATION

Food donation next Sunday, **January 9 - Pancake Syrup**. Thank you for your support!

SAINT VINCENT DePAUL VOLUNTEERS

Carol Bernat, Katie Irwin, Karen Herriotts-Bugay.

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

January 2, 2022

LISTEN

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE KING BY DR. SCOTT HAHN

As we celebrate the Epiphany, Dr. Scott Hahn explains how we should understand the three Magi and their gifts to the Lord!



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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.eriescd.org/familylifeoffice/ee.html>. We would love to welcome you this January!



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!

CHILDREN'S ENVELOPES

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

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

2022 CATHOLIC CALENDARS

Our thanks to McCabe Funeral Home of Punxsutawney for again providing us with our Catholic Calendars.

The calendars are available on the entrance tables today. Please take just one per family until we are sure everyone has had an opportunity to pick one up.

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.eriescd.org and can also be found on the tables at the entrances of the church or you can stop in the office.

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.

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: _____

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON



The C. D. of A. are hosting a "Holiday Luncheon" for all ladies of the parish next Sunday, January 9th, at 12:30pm in Wienker Hall.

This catered buffet will include appetizers, three entrées, side dishes, and dessert. The cost is just \$20/person.

Please join us for an enjoyable afternoon and a great lunch. We'd love to see you there!

RSVP by this Thursday, January 6th, to Patti Spinelli at 814-938-4720 or to Lou or Elaine Scuello at 814-938-9329.



SANCTUARY CLEANERS THIS WEEK

Bob Henretta, Katie Roberts, Rita Zenzi

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

After meeting Jesus, the Magi returned home by “another way.” What in your family needs to be done “another way?” Do you need “another way to resolve differences, to communicate or show affection? This is a new year, time to change what isn’t working. Take a tip from some wise men, there’s always “another way.”

OFFERTORY FIGURES

Due to an early bulletin publication deadline this week, the offertory figures posted below are current only up to December 19th.

Next week’s bulletin will contain up-to-date figures through January 2nd.



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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 2, 2022

- Sunday:** The Epiphany of the Lord; Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
- Monday:** The Most Holy Name of Jesus
- Tuesday:** St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
- Wednesday:** St. John Neumann, Bishop
- Thursday:** St. André Bessette, Religious
- Friday:** St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest
- Next Sunday:** The Baptism of the Lord

WEEKLY OFFERTORY ANALYSIS December 19, 2021 SACRIFICIAL GIVING MEANS JOY		Catholic Services Appeal 2021	
Church Offertory		2021 Diocesan Assessment \$76,000.00	
Worship cost	7:11	Total Parish Goal \$126,000.00	
Adult Family, Personal	206		
Adult	\$6,530.60	Pledged Amt:	\$91,255.00
Holy Day	\$297.00	Paid on Pledge:	\$89,304.65
Couples	\$1,345.00	Unpaid Pledges:	\$1,950.35
Children	\$6.00	Unpledged Donations:	\$19,593.99
House	\$518.20	Collected to Date:	\$108,898.64
Monthly	\$744.00		
Total	\$8,940.80		
<i>Pledge Goal</i>	\$8,000.00		
Stipend (Deaf)	\$940.80		
Accumulated (+/-)	\$11,082.76		
<i>7 weeks goal</i>			

Readings for the Week of January 2, 2022

- 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
- Monday:** 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
- Tuesday:** 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44
- Wednesday:** 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52
- Thursday:** 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a
- Friday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16
- Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6 and 9b/Jn 3:22-30
- Next Sunday:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

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