

HEAVEN WAS OPENED AND THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DESCENDED UPON HIM. - LK 3:21

THE BAPTISM 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](http://www.sscdchurch.com)

Mass Intentions for This Week

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

Monday, January 10

8:00 a.m. Parishioners

Tuesday, January 11

8:00 a.m. Rita Vilkinofsky -- Margie Canton

Wednesday, January 12

8:00 a.m. Betty Raymer -- Tom & Dorothy Smith

Thursday, January 13

8:00 a.m. George & Dalza Petroff --  
Julie Meehan, Cathy Michael and Jean Buterbaugh

Friday, January 14

9:00 a.m. Special Intention -- Nick & Annette Lorenzo

Saturday, January 15

4:30 p.m. Deceased of the Scuello and Plofchan Families --  
Lou, Barb, & Elaine

Sunday, January 16

8:00 a.m. Donald Slovinsky -- Kevin Davis and Carol Hankinson  
11:00 a.m. Bob & Cora Cardamone -- Ken & Toie Neal



Sunday, January 9

9:15am -- Religious Education, K –10  
9:15am -- Confirmation Class  
12:30pm -- C. D. of A. Holiday Luncheon  
- Wienker Hall

Monday, January 10

6:00pm -- Bible Study - Meeting Room

Tuesday, January 11

6:00pm -- Recitation of the Rosary - Church  
6:00pm -- Adult Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, January 12

10:00am -- Bible Study - Meeting Room

Sunday, January 16

9:15am -- Religious Education, K –10  
and Open House  
9:15am -- Confirmation Class



*You are my beloved Son;  
with you I am well pleased.*



Dear Parishioners,

*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. Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."*



Jesus is there anonymously in the crowd, coming forward with the rest to meet the famous John the Baptist. It is impossible for us to see him as an anonymous person; to us he stands out from every crowd and from the whole human race: above them, beyond them; we can't imagine him not yet majestic. But there he is, the village man, Jesus, known only to his family and neighbors. He is not yet famous.

There is only one famous man there: John the Baptist. When you see a famous person among the crowds you notice that there is nearly always something false about it: he or she is looking for something, votes or applause or some other sort of ego-stroking. But John the Baptist wasn't looking for anything; he was delivering! He was delivering a verbal lashing of extraordinary severity, calling the crowd 'a brood of vipers.' Jesus is there, watching, listening, anonymous. He is indistinguishable from the brood of vipers. He is one of us. This is nothing new for him; this is how he has been all the thirty years of his life.

But this meeting with John the Baptist is a turning point. Something happened. He experienced the Spirit, and it is described in the kind of language that mystics have used throughout the ages to describe their union with God: 'You are my son, the beloved.'

Have you ever known that experience, in your very bones: God speaking to you (in some sense), 'You are my son, my daughter, the beloved?' If you experience God at all how could it be otherwise? God is love. Even the thundering 19th-century preacher, Spurgeon, became quiet in front of today's gospel passage. He wrote: "The wings of the dove are as soft as they are swift. Quietness seems essential to many spiritual operations; the Lord is in the still small voice, and like the dew, His grace is distilled in silence." The unshakeable intimacy with his Father that Jesus demonstrated throughout the rest of his life bears witness to his experience of God's Spirit.

Was he now somehow 'above' the crowd? Would he no longer queue up with them? On the contrary. He was now more than ever one of them. He spent the rest of his life seeking out "the weak, the sick, the wounded, the strayed, the lost" (see Ezekiel 34). He was for the lost sheep, the outcast, the sinner. This has ever since been the mark of true greatness. Among us human beings (and not only in the farmyard) there is usually a well-enforced pecking order: people who climb up a step are sure to make it visible in some way, and sometimes they will even move into a different circle of friends and abandon the old circle. But Jesus never abandons the abandoned. Again, the mighty Spurgeon: "Gentleness is a sure result of the Spirit's transforming power: hearts touched by Him are meek and lowly henceforth and forever."

Can language convey this? I know a man who conveys it better than words ever could. When he is talking with you (or, much more often, listening) and someone interrupts, he totally ignores the interruption. His attention is unwavering. Nothing else exists for him at that moment, and you know that he would stop at nothing to help you, and there is not the slightest hint of ego in it - he has no agenda of his own. This is a rare quality. People know instinctively that he is a man of God. In case you've never met one, that's what meeting a saint is like.

If meeting a saint is like that, what must it be like to meet Jesus himself?

God Bless us in the New Year!  
Msgr. J. Riccardo



*Rest In Peace*

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Andrew J. Gresock of our parish; and Teresa Marie Schleef, daughter of Adda Meterko of our parish, both of whom died recently; Florence Reardon of our parish; Michael Defelice of our parish; Sherry Rupp, sister of Lou Ellen Cipolla and Richard Campbell of our parish; and John Polito, brother of David and Joseph Polito, both of our parish, all of whom died this past week. Please keep them and their families in your prayers. May their souls rest in peace.

**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.



**Liturgical Ministers**



**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](mailto:sscdofc@comcast.net)

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

**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.

**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.

**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.



**SAINT VINCENT DePAUL WEEKLY FOOD DONATION**

Food donation next Sunday, **January 16.** - **Peanut Butter** Thank you for your support!

**SAINT VINCENT DePAUL VOLUNTEERS**  
**Saturday, January 15 -**

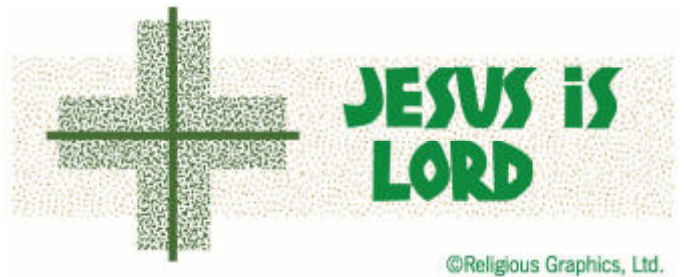
Marcia Parise, Sue Walker, Angela Gigliotti





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.



### 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!

### 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.

### 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](http://www.eriercd.org) and can also be found on the tables at the entrances of the church or you can stop in the office.

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

January 9, 2022

WATCH

#### REBORN - EPISODE 1: A NEW CREATION

This week, as we contemplate Jesus' Baptism, dive into the mystery of the Sacrament of Baptism! Through our Reborn series, you will come to understand the deeper meaning behind your Baptism!



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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, and Arlene Stewart

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

In today's gospel Jesus was publicly AFFIRMED by his Father: "You are my beloved son, with you I am very pleased." As parents we can become so focused on misbehaviors we overlook the good behaviors. Jesus needed AFFIRMATION and so do our children.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES



If we don't have your email address, or if your address has recently changed, please contact us at [sscdofc@comcast.net](mailto:sscdofc@comcast.net) so we can add you to our address book.

We will never share your e-mail address. Help us to stay in touch with you!

CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

**Online Gaming:** 72% of teens, both male and female (ages 13-17) play video games. More than half of those teens said they have made new friends online. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children analysis of Cyber Tipline reports has found that gaming platforms are more often used in the online enticement of young boys than any other group of children.

It is important for parents to talk to their child about safety in online gaming. Some important questions to ask are: Have you ever been cyberbullied while gaming? Do you know what information is OK to share about yourself while gaming? Has anyone talked about sex while you were gaming or asked you to send pictures of yourself? If your child answers yes, report the matter to law enforcement.

Visit [www.eriercd.org/childprotection/](http://www.eriercd.org/childprotection/) for additional resources.

THANK YOU FROM

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY



The members of the St. Vincent DePaul Society extend a heartfelt thank you to all those who have contributed so generously to the Society in the last several weeks and, indeed, throughout the year. Your generosity will allow us to continue to serve the needy in our community.

Contributions to the annual Thanksgiving collection from you, our parishioners, amount to \$9,971.00 An additional \$2,615.75 was received from various local organizations and individuals in our community. Thank you all for your very generous donations.

Thank you also to all the team members who have volunteered their time to help with our weekly food distributions.

Your donations of food, time, and monetary contributions are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

2022 CATHOLIC CALENDARS

If you didn't have an opportunity to pick a calendar up last weekend, there are still a few available in church.

Our thanks again to McCabe Funeral Home of Punxsutawney for providing us with our 2022 Catholic Calendar.



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**THANK YOU**

I appreciate your cooperation and generosity over the last few weeks in the Christmas and Solemnity of Mary collections.

As you can see from the report, we did very well; your help has made a significant difference in addressing our budget deficits. Your donations for Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary amounted to \$17,219.01. Thank you!

*"I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."  
- Lk 3:16bc*



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**OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 9, 2022**

- Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord
- Thursday: St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Sunday: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Readings for the Week of January 9, 2022**

- 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
- Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/Mk 1:14-20
- Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28
- Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39
- Thursday: Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45
- Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12
- Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17
- Next Sunday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 [3]/1 Cor 1 2:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

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WEEKLY OFFERTORY ANALYSIS January 2, 2022 SACRIFICAL GIVING MEANS 10%		Catholic Services Appeal 2021	
<b>Church Offertory</b>		2021 Diocesan Assessment \$76,000.00	
<i>Liveries worn</i>	711	<b>Total Parish Goal</b> \$126,000.00	
<i>Adult Livings Received</i>	185		
<b>Actual:</b>	<b>\$9,644.00</b>	<b>Pledged Amt:</b>	<b>\$91,255.00</b>
Holy Day	\$2,266.00	<b>Paid on Pledge:</b>	<b>\$89,879.65</b>
Christmas	\$1,030.00	<b>Unpaid Pledges:</b>	<b>\$1,375.35</b>
Children	\$9.00	<b>Unpledged Donations:</b>	<b>\$20,839.23</b>
Loose	\$394.20	<b>Collected to Date:</b>	<b>\$110,718.88</b>
Monthly	\$170.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,513.20</b>		
<b>Weekly Goal</b>	<b>\$8,000.00</b>		
Surplus (Deficit)	\$5,513.20		
Accumulated (+/-) Count	\$3,867.45 <i>Over goal</i>		



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