

SS. Cosmas and Damian Church

616 W. Mahoning Street, Punxsutawney, PA 15767

814-938-6540 - sscdofc@comcast.net

Website - sscdchurch.com

School - 814-938-4224 - sscdschool.com



Pastor – Msgr. Joseph J. Riccardo

School Principal –
Heather Kunselman, ex. 2224

Secretaries –
Jean Gigliotti, ex. 2210
Jude Griffith, ex. 2213

Business Manager –
Tony Bofinger, ex. 2214

Religious Ed Coordinator –
Ann Koppenhaver, ex. 2226

Twenty-Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time

September 18, 2022

*Praise the Lord,
who lifts up the poor.*

Sunday Masses:

Vigil on Saturday evening at 4:30pm

Sunday Morning :

Summer Schedule - (May 1 – Aug. 31)

8:00 and 10:00am

Winter Schedule - (Sept 1 – April 30)

8:00 and 11:00am

Weekday Masses: Monday – Friday 8:00am
(Fri. during School – 9:00am)

Baptism:

By appointment only. Please contact the parish office.

Celebration of Penance:

3:45pm – Saturday afternoon

5:30pm – after the Saturday evening Mass

8:30am – after Mass on the Thursday
before the first Friday of the month.

Marriage:

Please contact the parish office at least six months beforehand.

Anointing of the Sick:

Please call the office if anyone in your family is hospitalized or in need of a priest.

Mass Intentions for This Week

Saturday, September 17

4:30 p.m. Reed, Phyllis, and Bernard Himes --
Family

Sunday, September 18

8:00 a.m. Albert & Alice Koza --
Paul & Bertha Koza
11:00 a.m. Art Marks -- Gary & Patty Anderson

Monday, September 19

8:00 a.m. Parishioners

Tuesday, September 20

8:00 a.m. COMMUNION SERVICE

Wednesday, September 21

8:00 a.m. COMMUNION SERVICE

Thursday, September 22

8:00 a.m. COMMUNION SERVICE

Friday, September 23

9:00 a.m. Raymond Smochek -- Family

Saturday, September 24

4:30 p.m. Caroline Martino -- Christine Lillis

Sunday, September 25

8:00 a.m. Shane Lorelli Brudnock --
Gerrie Lorelli
11:00 a.m. Dolores Poy -- Murajda Family



THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, September 18

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

Monday, September 19

6:00pm -- Bible Study -- Meeting Room

Tuesday, September 20

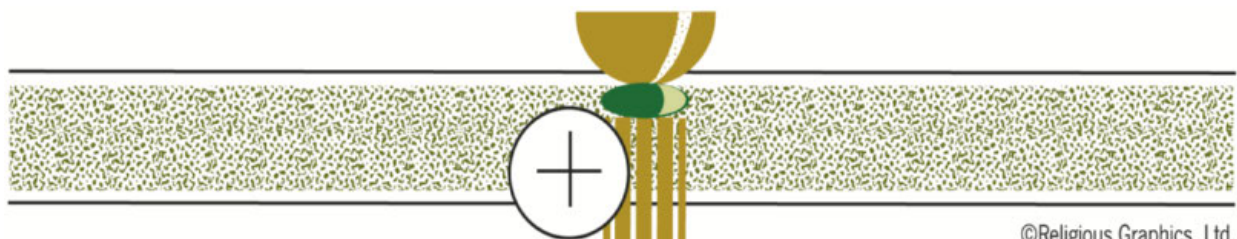
6:00pm -- Recitation of the Rosary - Church
6:00pm -- Adult Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, September 21

10:00am -- Bible Study - Meeting Room
5:30pm -- C. D. of A. Picnic - Wienker Hall

Sunday, September 25

9:15am -- Religious Education Classes, K-9
9:15am -- Confirmation Class - Meeting Room
3:00pm -- Anointing of the Sick - Church



Dear Parishioners:



Everyone has trouble with the parable of the dishonest manager. Depending on their own general attitude, commentators call it ‘difficult’, or ‘puzzling’, or ‘messy and morally ambiguous’.... The ancient commentators had trouble with it too. They wriggled as best they could. “When the owner praised the unjust steward, it wasn’t praise in a real sense,” said St Augustine, “it was praise in a diminished sense.” And by moralizing on each verse individually they generally managed to overlook the story as a whole. Even the earliest interpretations of the parable, reflected in the gospel itself, seem strained. There are three or four of them in this passage, not just one as you would expect; and some of them are only loosely attached to the story. It is as if people didn’t quite know what to do with this parable.

All the characters in the story are rather shady; there is not a single shining light. In Palestine, debts were often paid in kind, not in money; so, this story is more realistic than it sounds to us. The steward is an embezzler, and the debtors were quite happy to co-operate in his embezzlement. Even the owner seems to be a rascal; instead of being shocked, he admired the cleverness of the embezzler and praised him for what he had done.

What are we to make of it?

Someone once said that there are two kinds of people in the world: those who think that there are only two kinds of people in the world, and those who don’t! He added that many people see the world as a western movie in which all the good guys wear white hats and all the bad guys wear black hats. They always count themselves among the good people, of course, and they think they are cozying up to God and Jesus. Almost any page of the gospels would show them that Jesus was not on the side of the ‘good’ people of his day. He was not on any side. And quite a few of the ‘good’ people you meet today, had they been contemporaries of Jesus, would have been among the crowd shouting, “Crucify him!” He was not a respectable person.

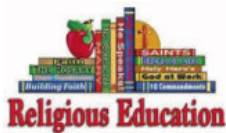
The unquestioned assumption at the time was that God loved virtuous people and hated sinners. Sinners were God’s enemies, and therefore enemies of all virtuous people. The whole religious system, with its hierarchy and its laws, was built around this. By the way he consorted with sinners Jesus was not just introducing new ideas but toppling the system, and he paid the price for it.

“Love your enemies,” he said. To the religious authorities this meant, “Love God’s enemies.” How could you love someone if you saw no redeeming features in them? He saw goodness in foreigners, pagans, sinners of every kind. This was heresy. But he consorted with sinners in real life, so why should he not fill this parable with them? He never implied that a sinner was not a sinner; it was not in his nature to gloss over anything. “Go and sin no more” (John 8:11). But no disciple of his can ever claim that he or she has nothing to learn from sinners and ‘non-people’.

A master had hundreds of disciples. All of them prayed at the appropriate time - except one, who was a drunkard. When he was about to die, the master called the drunkard to his side, and passed on to him all of his deepest teaching. The other disciples were dismayed, and complained bitterly. The master said, “I had to pass on my wisdom to a man I knew well. The rest of you appear to be virtuous, but you only conceal your vanity, your pride and your intolerance. So, I chose the only disciple whose defects I could see.”

God Bless!

Mgr. J. Riccardo



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Classes for this year have begun.

If you have not yet registered your child/children in our program, stop in the Religious Education office prior to class today.



Every year, on the third Sunday of September, the Church celebrates **Catechetical Sunday**.

It is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

We offer a special thank you to our dedicated volunteers in our Religious Education Program for this year:

Ann Koppenhaver Coordinator of Religious Education

Grades K & 1.....Lindsay Kendra

Grades 2 & 3.....Ann Koppenhaver

Grades 4 & 5.....Dawn Porada

Grades 6 - 9Debbie Rougeux

and Arlene Stewart

ConfirmationMsgr. Riccardo, Sue Dahrouge, and Paul Jekielek

It's not too late to volunteer!

We always welcome extra help in our Religious Education Program.

If you have a few hours a month to give and would like to become involved in our program, you can contact the office.

Thank you!!



ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Our annual Anointing of the Sick, in honor of Saints Cosmas and Damian, will take place next Sunday, September 25th at 3pm in church.

All Catholics suffering from a serious or chronic illness, young or old, or those anticipating surgery or extended physical or mental therapy may participate.

The sacrament of Anointing is meant to bring about a conscious awareness of God's presence at moments of physical or mental stress, pain or suffering in our lives.

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

We are in need of Altar Servers at SS. Cosmas & Damian.

Altar Servers perform a very important and much needed role in liturgical services. This role includes assisting the priest so that the liturgy can be conducted with grace and reverence.



I would like to invite students going into fourth grade or older, **as well as adults**, to consider becoming an altar server.

There would be a brief training session and then you would serve with an experienced server a few times as an additional part of your training.

Call or email the office to let us know of your or your child's interest.



Rest In Peace

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Karyn Kay Farbo of our parish; and Susan Koza, sister-in-law of Paul Koza, Sr. of our parish, both of whom died this past week. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

May their souls rest in peace.

"How do I become a Catholic?"

Has anyone ever asked you that question? The RCIA (*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*) answers that question.



Classes this year will begin in October and will continue until Easter of next year. The classes will 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 just come to the first class, date to be announced.



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.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION COLLECTION

Today's second collection is the 2022 Catholic Education Collection. Please support this important program that funds faith formation opportunities. Half of what you give will remain at our parish to support our own religious education and faith formation programs.

Thank you for your support!

SAINT VINCENT DePAUL WEEKLY FOOD DONATION

Food donation next **Sunday, September 25 - Chicken Soup**. Thank you for your generosity!

If you or someone you know is in need of food assistance, please visit our food pantry on Saturdays between 10am and Noon.

If you have any questions, please contact Monika Bizousky at 814-938-0636.



JOIN THE CHOIR!

Our Choir is in need of spirit-filled singers to join our ranks at the last Mass on Sundays! The ability to read music is

not required.

We sing at Sunday Masses September through May and other special occasions throughout the year.

Rehearsals are held most Wednesdays at 6pm.

We'd love for you to join us! Please contact Toie Neal at 814-952-1523 or come to any practice and give it a try!

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 and encouraged to attend. Please join us.



FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

Sept 18, 2022

PADRE PIO: BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH

Based on the historical records and the personal testimony of his fellow friars, this is the amazing true story of the life of the famous stigmatic monk, St. Padre Pio, a contemporary saint who died in 1968. Filmed on location in Italy, starring Michele Placido in a moving performance, this film tells the whole story of the beloved monk from San Giovanni Rotondo, a place where millions of pilgrims now annually visit Padre Pio's grave.



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FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Despite all our time saving gadgets, we still have less leisure and family time. To solve this we created the Myth of Quality Time. Don't be fooled: Quality Time is Quantity Time. Jesus counsels us today, we "cannot serve two masters" and expect to be happy. Dedicate time to your family. No one in their final hours regretted not spending more time at work

ENGAGEMENT ENCOUNTER

Engaged couples are invited to attend an Engagement Encounter this **October 14-16, 2022** in Erie. Engagement Encounter is a restful retreat designed to provide engaged couples the tools for a happy, holy, and lasting marriage.



Engagement
Encounter

Here's what folks have loved in the past: Time as a couple to focus on their relationship, a community that prays and has fun together, a non-judgmental atmosphere, the chance to set a good foundation for their 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 October!

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.

SEWING MINISTRY

Your gift of Time and Talent



Attention all sewers, crocheters, knitters, and quilters - Our Prayer Shawl and Lap Quilt Ministry is in need of ladies who knit, crochet, and/or sew simple projects.

If you are interested in offering your God-gifted talents you are welcome to join us in Walston at the Church Office on Wednesdays from 12:30 till 2:30pm. If you would prefer, you can always offer your sewing or knitting skills in the quiet of your own home.

This ministry also gratefully accepts donations of fabric, yarn, and other supplies, as well as monetary donations and your prayers. Volunteers are always needed to distribute items to area nursing homes for those in need of a little comfort.

We welcome your involvement - Please join us! Contact Michele Aikens at 814-952-0702 for further information.



To add a name to the Prayer Chain, please call Pat Rougeux, 814-938-4464.

If you are unable to reach her you may call the office weekdays 9am - 4pm.

SAINT VINCENT DePAUL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday, September 24 -

Tom & Michele Zimmerman

SANCTUARY CLEANERS THIS WEEK

Sandy Hinderliter, Mary Claire Johnston, Arlene Stewart, Sandy Kotula



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 current calendar 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.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

St. Bernard Church, Falls Creek, famous Spaghetti Dinner, the first one of the season, is being held today Sunday, September 18th.



Dinner will be served in the dining hall and take-out dinners will be available 11am-1pm or until sold out. **Sauce and meatballs only** will be available for take-out on Saturday, September 17, after the 4:30pm Mass and after the 8am Mass on Sunday.

The new prices are \$10/dinner, \$1/meatball and \$6/quart of sauce. Please bring your own containers for take-out.

ALL LADIES OF THE PARISH



All ladies of the parish are invited to join with the C. D. of A. at their annual summer picnic this Wednesday evening, September 21, at 5:30pm in Wienker Hall.

Just bring a covered dish to share - everything else will be provided.

We hope you can join us - we'd love to see you there!

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 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!

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

- Sunday:** 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catechetical Sunday
Monday: St. Januarius, Bishop and Martyr
Tuesday: Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gõn, Priest, and Paul Chông Ha-sang and Companions, Martyrs
Wednesday: St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
Friday: St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest
Next Sunday: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time; National Migration Week

WEEKLY OFFERTORY ANALYSIS September 11, 2022 SACRIFICIAL GIVING MEANS 10%

Church Offertory

<i>Envelopes sent</i>	706
<i>Adult Envelopes Returned</i>	196
Adult	\$6,026.15
Holy Day	\$30.00
Children	\$6.50
Loose	\$298.00
Monthly	\$222.00
Total	\$6,582.65
<i>Weekly Goal</i>	\$8,000.00
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$1,417.35)
Accumulated(+/-) Goal Since 7/1/2022	\$5,165.92 <i>Under Goal</i>

Catholic Services Appeal 2022

2022 Diocesan Assessment
\$79,692.00

Total Parish Goal
\$129,692.00

Pledged Amt:	\$92,180.00
Paid on Pledge:	\$87,645.70
Unpaid Pledges:	\$4,534.30
Unpledged Donations:	\$13,242.22
2022 CSA Collected to Date:	\$100,887.92

Readings for the Week of September 18, 2022

- Sunday:** Am 8:4-7/Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8/1 Tm 2:1-8 /Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13
Monday: Prv 3:27-34/Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5/ Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday: Prv 21:1-6, 10-13/Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44/Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Mt 9:9-13
Thursday: Eccl 1:2-11/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17bc/Lk 9:7-9
Friday: Eccl 3:1-11/Ps 144:1b and 2abc, 3-4/ Lk 9:18-22
Saturday: Eccl 11:9—12:8/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17/Lk 9:43b-45
Next Sunday: Am 6:1a, 4-7/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 [1b]/ 1 Tm 6:11-16/Lk 16:19-31

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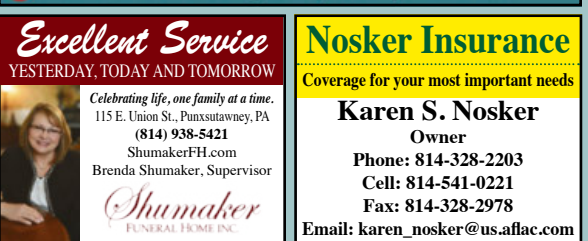
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