



Saints Cosmas and Damian

Ss. Cosmas & Damian Parish

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

Mass Intentions for This Week

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

Monday, September 26

8:00 a.m. Parishioners, in honor of Saints Cosmas and Damian

Tuesday, September 27

8:00 a.m. Tony & Rose Lorelli -- Richard Agnello Family

Wednesday, September 28

8:00 a.m. Dominic & Anna Bianco --
Pat & Rod Shemo & Family

Thursday, September 29

8:00 a.m. Robert Petroff -- Joe & Jeanne Nogacek

Friday, September 30

9:00 a.m. Kenneth & Helen Louise Parsons --
Paul Rothermich

Saturday, October 1

8:00 a.m. John McConnaughey -- Family

4:30 p.m. Robert Lewis -- Cousins, Lou, Elaine,
Barb, & Nick

Sunday, October 2

8:00 a.m. Peggy Parente -- Family

11:00 a.m. Bill Pride -- Sandra Dubensky



THE
WEEK
AHEAD

Sunday, September 25

9:15am -- Religious Education, K –9

9:15am -- Confirmation Class -
Meeting Room

3:00pm -- Anointing of the Sick -
Church

Monday, September 26

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

Tuesday, September 27

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

6:00pm -- Adult Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, September 28

10:00am -- Bible Study - Meeting Room

6:00pm -- Choir Practice - Church

Saturday, October 1

Following 4:30 Mass -- Blood pressure and blood
sugar testing - St. Vincent DePaul Room

Sunday, October 2

Following 8 & 11am Masses - Blood pressure
and blood sugar testing - St. Vincent DePaul Room

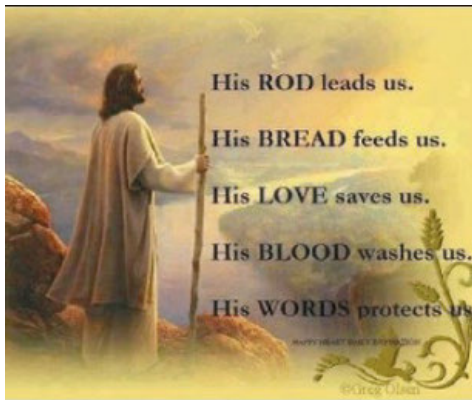
9:15am -- Religious Education Classes, K-9

9:15am -- Parent Reconciliation Meeting

9:15am -- Confirmation Class - Meeting Room



Dear Parishioners:



‘If living conditions continue to improve in this country,’ someone said, ‘we’re going to run out of humble beginnings for our great men.’ Humble beginnings have to be part of the story, because people like to be able to look down so that they can see how high they have climbed. Power and wealth are a real religion, with devotees all over the world, with its holy land—the wealthiest countries—and its holy cities, the financial capitals of the world. It has its temples, the banks, often the finest buildings in town. It has its ardent preachers, the advertisers. It even has its heroic stories that read just like the lives of the saints. A young boy from a poor family (read ‘a hopeless sinner’) begins with a paper round, gets a job as an office-boy, climbs, climbs, till he becomes a big man in the company; then he clinches his salvation by marrying into the company via the boss's daughter (‘the unitive way, the mystical espousals’).

It is God's greatest rival: the religion of Mammon. ‘You cannot serve God and money,’ Jesus said (Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13). This is because money has the capacity to touch the very depths of our soul. How can it do that? It has no poetry! There are no poems about money: I can't think of a single example. It could be that it only takes over souls that have no capacity for poetry. ‘If you want to see what God thinks of money,’ someone said, ‘look at the people he gives it to!’ In itself it is not an interesting subject. It is our need and our greed that lend it interest. It is, above all, a promise: that essential component of any religion.

Its promises, however, are always just for oneself (or one’s family: one’s larger self). Listen to the advertisers. The underlying creed is that life has nothing to offer but what can be purchased or won, and that there is nothing either good or bad beyond that. All others are either partners or competitors: people who can help or hinder you in your search for more of the same.

I am thinking, of course, of pure devotees. Many, as in every religion, are not true believers, or have mixed motives. There are wealthy people who have a real care for the half of the world that is malnourished. But there are others, like the rich man in the parable, who don’t even notice Lazarus at their door, and who are therefore able to step over him without malice, keeping their own self-esteem intact. And there are others again who notice Lazarus but keep their self-esteem by throwing him a few scraps.

The religion of Mammon is a destructive cult. It not only destroys the poor by enriching its devotees at their expense, but it destroys the devotees themselves. They are creating ‘a great chasm’ between themselves and the rest of humanity, so that ‘those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’

Which characters does the story ask us to identify ourselves with? The rich man, named Dives in older translations? In fact, he is given no name in the gospels: ‘dives’ is just the Latin word for ‘a rich. The rich man has no identity except his wealth. No, we are not being asked to see ourselves as Dives. Lazarus, then? No, neither is it telling us to lie down at the rich man’s door like Lazarus. The parable is telling us that we are the rich man’s five brothers.

We have Moses and the prophets – but above all we have Jesus – to tell us to live by a different religion, a subversive religion that ‘casts down the mighty from their thrones and exalts the lowly, that fills the hungry with good things but sends the rich away empty.’ We are not told whether the five brothers changed their lives around. Why? Because we are the five brothers, and the story isn’t over yet.

God Bless!
Msgr. J. Riccardo



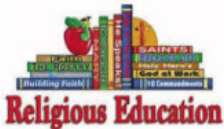
Rest In Peace

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Edward Borelli of our parish, who died this past week.

Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

May his soul rest in peace.



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.

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, is being held **today, 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.

A social in Wiener Hall will follow the service.

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.



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.

"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.

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in your LIFE!

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Engagement
Encounter

Engaged couples are invited to attend an Engagement Encounter on **October 14-16, 2022** in Erie.

EE is a restful retreat designed to provide engaged couples the tools for a happy, holy, and lasting marriage.

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!

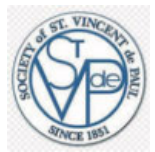
CATHOLIC EDUCATION COLLECTION

Thank you for your donations in the amount of \$1,435.15 in last weekend's Catholic Education collection.

Your generosity will help to support the lifelong faith formation and educational needs of our parish and the diocese. Thank you!

SAINT VINCENT DePAUL WEEKLY FOOD DONATION

Food donation next **Sunday, October 2 - Tomato 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.

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

Sept 25, 2022

THÉRÈSE

A pampered child from a middle-class 19th century French family, Therese Martin journeys to Rome to beg Pope Leo XIII for permission to enter the Carmelite monastery at the unheard-of age of 15. Once admitted she experiences the joys and rigors of monastic life, and makes the surprising yet simple discovery that holiness can be achieved by small acts of love and compassion – a spiritual path she calls her "Little Way."



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FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

In today's gospel the rich man died and was condemned to "a place of torment" because he ignored the poor. He asked Lazarus to go and warn his five brothers to change their ways. Evidently ignoring the poor was a family pattern. What is your family's attitude toward those who are poor?

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.

FEAST OF SAINTS COSMAS & DAMIAN **September 26th**

***Holy twins honored for their healing,
their poverty, and their deaths***



Cosmas and Damian were twins and natives of Saudi Arabia who studied medicine in Syria. They became known as the "moneyless ones" for refusing to accept payment for their healing services. They were likely martyred north of Antioch in the early fourth-century.

Most of the wealth of miracles that have long been attributed to Saints Cosmas and Damian involve healing, in keeping with their medical profession. The fame of these miracles, together with their martyrdom, was so widespread in the early Church that they joined that elite class of martyrs, saints, virgins, and popes whose names were inserted into the Roman Canon, or Eucharistic Prayer I, where they are still read at Mass today. Their names also ring out in ancient litanies still sung at solemn Masses.

*Saints Cosmas and Damian,
through your heroic witness of martyrdom,
we ask your intercession to embolden the weak,
to strengthen the hesitant, to give words to the
meek, and to unleash the hidden power of the
Gospel in all those who could do more.*





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.

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!



SAINT VINCENT DePAUL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday, October 1-

Monika & Frank Bizousky

SANCTUARY CLEANERS THIS WEEK

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

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

Sunday:	26th Sunday in Ordinary Time; National Migration Week
Monday:	Sts. Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs
Tuesday:	St. Vincent de Paul, Priest
Wednesday:	St. Wenceslaus, Martyr; St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs
Thursday:	Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels
Friday:	St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Saturday:	St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church
Next Sunday:	27th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Respect Life Sunday; The Holy Guardian Angels

K OF C SUNDAY

Sunday, October 9th, is K. of C. Sunday.

The members of our local Knights of Columbus, Council #452, will gather at the 8:00am Mass to celebrate their 123 years of service to our area.

The intention for this Mass will be for all deceased Knights of Council #452.

All Knights are encouraged to attend this Mass in recognition of K. of C. Sunday and sit in the front with your brother Knights.



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 month's calendar can be found on the Diocesan website at www.eriecd.org and can also be found on the tables at the entrances of the church.

WEEKLY OFFERTORY ANALYSIS September 18, 2022 SACRIFICIAL GIVING MEANS 10%

Church Offertory

<i>Envelopes sent</i>	706
<i>Adult Envelopes Returned</i>	210
Adult	\$5,972.20
Holy Day	\$40.00
Children	\$7.50
Loose	\$495.55
Monthly	\$1,254.00
Total	\$7,769.25
<i>Weekly Goal</i>	<i>\$8,000.00</i>
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$230.75)
Accumulated(+/-) Goal Since 7/1/2022	\$5,396.67 <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:	\$87,940.70
Unpaid Pledges:	\$4,239.30
Unpledged Donations:	\$13,791.63
2022 CSA Collected to Date:	\$101,732.33

Readings for the Week of September 25, 2022

Sunday:	Am 6:1a, 4-7/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 [1b]/1 Tm 6:11-16/Lk 16:19-31
Monday:	Jb 1:6-22/Ps 17:1bcd, 2-3, 6-7/Lk 9:46-50
Tuesday:	Jb 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23/Ps 88:2-3, 4-5, 6, 7-8/Lk 9:51-56
Wednesday:	Jb 9:1-12, 14-16/Ps 88:10bc-11, 12-13, 14-15/Lk 9:57-62
Thursday:	Dan 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5/Jn 1:47-51
Friday:	Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5/Ps 139:1-3, 7-8, 9-10, 3-14ab/Lk 10:13-16
Saturday:	Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17/Ps 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130/Lk 10:17-24
Next Sunday:	Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14/Lk 17:5-10

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