THE Epiphany OF OUR Lord

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

October 4, 2026

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Mass
Monday & Thursday:
8:00 a.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday:
No Mass

Weekend Mass
Saturday: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday:
8:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m.

Confession:
Saturday: 3:00 p.m.
Or by appointment

All Sacraments:
Please call the office

A Pennsylvania Charitable

OUR LOCATION

Epiphany of Our Lord Catholic Church
44 Pennsylvania Blvd., Monessen, PA 15062

724-684-7661

724-397-7035 —Emergency Pastoral Care

www.eolparish.com

Office Hours
Mon.–Thurs.: 8:30 am, - 3:00 p.m. Fri.: 8:30 a.m.– 12 Noon

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Anthony Onoko
aonoko@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Michael Thomas
mthomas@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Bulletin Sec.: Tara Manderino
tmanderino@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Regional Director of Faith Formation & Discipleship:
Adelle Slebodnik, aslebodnik@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Youth Coordinator:
Maureen Ruschak, mruschak@dioceseofgreensburg.org

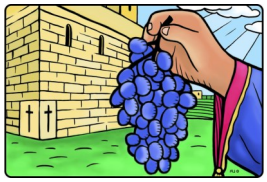
Maintenance: Patrick Frederick

Reflection

From Fr. Anthony Onoko:

27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

IS 5:1-7; PHIL 4:6-9; MT 21:33-43



Dear brothers and sisters, today's readings speak to us about a vineyard. In the Bible, the vineyard represents God's people, His Church, and indeed each one of our lives. God is the loving owner of the vineyard. He prepares the land, plants it carefully, protects it, and expects it to bear good fruit.

Everything we have is first a gift from God: our life, health, family, faith, gifts, education, work, and the opportunities placed before us. We are not absolute owners; we are stewards. One day, God will ask each of us: "What have you done with the vineyard I entrusted to you?"

In the Gospel, the tenants forgot that the vineyard belonged to the owner. They wanted its fruits for themselves. They rejected his servants and finally killed his son. Their sin was not only violence; it was selfishness. They wanted God's gifts without God. They wanted control without responsibility.

This can happen to us too. We may receive many blessings from God, but forget to thank Him. We may use our time only for ourselves and have no time for prayer. We may enjoy the support of family but fail to love, listen, or forgive. We may have gifts and talents but use them for pride rather than service. We may come to church, but fail to bring the fruits of kindness, honesty, purity, justice, and compassion into daily life.

God is patient, but He does expect fruit. The fruit He seeks is not merely money, activity, or outward religion. He seeks hearts that love Him and lives that reflect Him. He seeks peace in our homes, integrity at work, compassion for the suffering, faithfulness in marriage, respect for life, and forgiveness where there has been hurt.

St Paul gives us a beautiful and practical way of bearing fruit. He says: "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." Many of us carry worries about our children, health, finances, future, or relationships. Rather than allowing anxiety to control us, Paul invites us to bring everything to God in prayer, with thanksgiving.

He also tells us to fill our minds with whatever is true, honourable, just, pure, lovely, and gracious. What we allow into our minds affects the fruit our lives produce. If we feed ourselves constantly with anger, gossip, impurity, and negativity, these things will grow in us. But if we feed on God's word, prayer, good conversation, and acts of charity, our lives will bear good fruit.

This week, let us ask ourselves: What fruit is God seeking from me? Perhaps it is a sincere apology, more time in prayer, a decision to stop gossiping, a return to Confession, a generous act, or forgiveness for someone who has hurt us.

The vineyard belongs to God. May He find in each of us the fruits of faith, love, holiness, and peace.

PRAYER

Loving Father, You have entrusted us with the vineyard of our lives. Forgive us for the times we have lived selfishly and forgotten Your goodness. Help us to use Your gifts wisely, to pray with trust, to love generously, and to bear fruits of holiness in our homes, parish, and community. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

We would love to have you join our parish. You are most welcome here. Drop this form in the collection basket, or call the office at 724-684-7661.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Prayer for the Month of October

Loving and merciful Father,
as we begin this new month of October, we place into Your caring hands all those who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit.

We pray especially for all who are battling cancer, heart disease, and every serious illness. Bring them healing, strength, courage, and peace. Bless their doctors, nurses, carers, and all who support them. May they never feel alone, for You are close to the broken-hearted and near to all who call upon You.

We pray for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Comfort them in their sorrow, wipe away their tears, and give eternal rest to those who have died. May the hope of the resurrection strengthen every wounded heart.

We pray for marriages and families experiencing difficulty, misunderstanding, separation, pain, or lack of peace. Lord, heal what is broken, soften hearts, restore communication, deepen love, and grant the grace of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Bless all Your children throughout this month. Grant us good health, protection, wisdom, peace in our homes, success in our work, and growth in faith. May this month bring renewed hope, unexpected blessings, and a deeper awareness of Your loving presence.

Through the intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary, may God bless us, protect us, and keep us close to His Sacred Heart.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fr. Anthony Onoko

Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, embolden me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesus, hear me.
Within your wounds hide me.
Never permit me to be parted from you.
From the evil Enemy defend me.
At the hour of my death call me
and bid me come to you,
that with your Saints I may praise you
for age upon age. Amen.

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, October 3 — Vigil
4:00 PM † Raymond & Rose Cocciolone by Family

Sunday, October 4 — 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 AM † Polaski & Trunzo Families by Michael & Beth Tesznar
10:30 AM Pro Populo

Monday, October 5
8:00 AM † Mildred Cramer by Daughter, Lisa Anderson

Tuesday, October 6
8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

Wednesday, October 7
9:00 AM Mass at St. John the Baptist

Thursday, October 8
8:00 AM † Angela & Felice Talarico by Marge Talarico

Friday, October 9
8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian
10:15AM Mass at St.. John the Baptist

Saturday, October 10 — Vigil
4:00 PM † Andrew and Janne Sepesky & Decesased Children by Family

Sunday, October 11 — 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 AM † James H. Todd by Wife, Ruth Jane, & Family
10:30 AMPro Populo

Parish Office:

44 PENNSYLVANIA BLVD, MONESSEN, PA 15062
Parish Office (24/7): 724-684-7661
Church Hall: 724-684-5512
Religious Education: 724-929-9300
Emergency Pastoral Care: 724-397-7035
www.eolparish.com
youtube.com/EpiphanyofOurLordCatholicChurch
Facebook.com/Epiphany-of-Our-Lord

OFFICE HOURS :
Monday –Thursday: 8:30 a.m. –12; 1 p.m.– 3 p.m.
Friday: 8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Ministry Schedule — Oct. 10 & 11

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 p.m.	S. Stein	D. Harkins S. Surdyn A. Punturiero	Volunteer
8:30 a.m.	F. Petorsky	L. DeFelices T. Todd Volunteer	M. Blatnik
10:30 a.m.	M. Melvin	E. Yatchyshn K. Imbrescia T. Gigliotti	G. Yatchyshyn

Money Counters
Monday, October 5 — Team #1 — B. Geis

Stewardship

Weekly Collection September 27

Votive Candles:	100	Online :	896
Utility & Energy:	35	**Total Collection:**	**$8,365**
Accent:	3	Seminarian:	537
Children & Adult:	7,331	**Total Collection:**	**$8,902**

Give online

Consider online giving. It is quick and easy to set up. You can do it one time, or however often you wish. It can be stopped at any time. Sign up through the app or the website: www.eolparish.com

DLA

Since we have reached our Diocesan goal of $44,564, everything now contributed to DLA **will come back to the parish!** We are currently $5,383 toward our parish goal of $20,000.

If you change your address or phone number, be sure to let us know. You can call the office, drop the info in the collection basket or email Tara at tmanderino@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Name: _____

New Address: _____

Phone: _____

Thank You

We received the following message from the Monessen School District for the Back to School Brown Bag:

" On behalf of our students, families, and school community at the Monessen Elementary Center, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your incredibly generous support.

Your donation of school supplies, snacks and monetary contributions are such a meaningful gift to our school. These items help ensure that our students have the supplies and resources they need to learn, grow, and feel cared for throughout the school year.

We are especially grateful for the kindness and generosity The Epiphany of Our Lord Church has shown to our students. Your support goes far beyond the donations themselves — it reminds our children that their community believes in them and wants to see them succeed.

Thank you for partnering with us year after year and for making such a positive difference in the lives of our students. We truly appreciate your thoughtfulness, generosity and continued support."

Cheese Balls

Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Monessen are again selling their "World Famous Cheese Balls" for the Holidays. They are wrapped to freeze and nuts are bagged separately. Cost $10.00. **Orders are due by Tuesday, October 20**, by calling Regent Debbie Genemore at 724-708-8335. **Pick up date: Friday, November 17** between 1:00 to 3:00 in the Church Hall. Thank you, in advance, for your support of our projects.

Save the Date

The Knights of Columbus and Epiphany Ladies will sponsor a **Spaghetti Dinner** at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1925 Grand Blvd., Monessen from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on **Sunday, October 18**. Donation is $15. Eat in or take out. Tickets can be purchased from any of the Knights, Epiphany Ladies, or at the church office. Additional tickets available at the door.

Join us for Coffee and Doughnuts after the 8:30 a.m. Mass. This hospitality is extended by a different organization each week.

October Count

Throughout the month of October it has been customary to count the people who attend church. This count is important when we look at the Diocese and see where we are going and how we can best manage the support and coverage of our parishes.

Furthering Our Faith

We have begun our sessions of Metanoia. It's not too late to join us if you would like to participate. **Metanoia** means conversion, but more than that, it means to change, to repent, to think differently. And that's what we will be looking at in this series by Wild Goose. We will **meet each Thursday in October at 6:30 p.m. in the church hall.** There is no study guide for the series, so there is no cost. We will watch the video by Wild Goose and have a brief discussion.

Communion to the Homebound

If you are homebound and would like to receive the Eucharist, please call the office and let us know.

Student Essay Contest

The Knights of Columbus, Council #954 is sponsoring a Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest for **Catholic students grades 8-12.** The essay will be up to 750 words. This year's theme is taken from President John Kennedy's inaugural address quote on human rights. Specific instructions and entry forms will be available in each Church. The contest closes on November 15 with a **cash prize awarded to the first-place winner in each grade.** Winning entries will then be forwarded to district and state offices for further judging. Looks for complete details of the form and in future bulletins.

Shoe Box Project

The Diocesan Central Council of Greensburg, **Society of St. Vincent DePaul,** will be participating in the Appalachian Christmas Shoe Box Project. The shoeboxes will be packed on **Sunday, October 25 following the 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Sebastian** in their parish hall. Help will also be needed in sorting the items for the shoe boxes. Items can be brought to either the Epiphany or St. Sebastian church office.

Faith

Confirmation Retreat

The Office of Faith, Family, and Discipleship will once again host **required Confirmation Retreats** at Christ Our Shepherd Center for all youth preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation in Spring 2027. These retreats supplement the immediate preparation that is required to be done in the parishes and regions. Thank you for your patience in launching registration, as we have added the option of morning transportation for students who live in more distant places of the Diocese.

Parents are expected to register their child for the Confirmation Retreat of their family's choice on the Diocesan website: **www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/formation/confirmation-youth-retreat/** in addition to any paperwork they must complete for the parish. This registration is necessary for the safety and wellbeing of our youth as well as are required as part of the USCCB Charter on the Safety of Children and Youth.

Being Good Stewards

It is time to renew your commitment to living the life of a good and faithful steward. Epiphany parish has been blessed with an overwhelming abundance of gifts and talents. It is how we choose to use these gifts and talents that matter. To be good stewards, we need to look beyond ourselves to the welfare of our community. The love we have for Christ must be the impetus behind how we choose to live. Growth in our awareness of Christ's message is a vital part of life for any Christian. It is also basic to renewal in parish life. An important part of this spiritual growth is embodied in the principle of Stewardship. **Through Stewardship, we thank God for our blessings by returning to God a portion of the time, talent and treasure we have been given.**

Stewardship means helping the Church's mission with time, money, personal resources of all kinds. This sharing is not an option for Catholics who understand what membership in the church involves; it is serious duty. **Christian stewardship successfully bridges the material world around us and the world of the Spirit within us.**

During this week pray about how you might be able to serve at liturgy. Do not be shy about sharing your gifts with the community. If you have any questions or concerns about any of the ministries, please feel free to call.

Women are invited to attend Spirited 2026: "Chosen and Precious in the Sight of God" (1 Peter 2:4) **Saturday, Nov. 7, at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg.** The conference, a day of prayer, inspiration and fellowship sponsored by the Diocese of Greensburg's Office of Faith, Family and Discipleship, will feature nationally recognized Catholic speakers Mari Pablo and Ali Hoffman, along with keynote presentations, breakout sessions, witness talks, opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, praise and worship, and Mass celebrated by Bishop Larry J. Kulick. Breakfast and lunch are included. Whether you are seeking spiritual renewal, deeper discipleship or fellowship with other Catholic women, Spirited 2026 offers a meaningful opportunity to grow in faith and encounter Christ. **Register now at DioceseofGreensburg.org/Spirited**.

Middle School Students

Calling all middle school students! Get ready for an unforgettable night! Register now for **PAX: CHOSEN, Friday, Nov. 6,** from 6 p.m. -9:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace Parish, Greensburg. Join us for an evening of **games, food, friends and a powerful faith experience.** Keynote speaker Mari Pablo will remind you how God has CHOSEN you for greatness. Register now at **DioceseofGreensburg.org/PAX**

Join us on **Thursday, Oct. 22**, for KNOW HIM: Through His Mother's Eyes, at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg. This experiential event will enable you to encounter Christ through the eyes of His Blessed Mother. You will explore the ways Mary leads us more deeply to her Son. Sign up for either the 2 p.m. or 6 p.m. session at **DioceseofGreensburg.org/KNOWHIM.** There is no charge, space is limited so register today!

Columbus Day Dinner

Knights' Council #954 will hold their Annual Columbus Day Banquet at our Council Hall on Grand Blvd., on **Saturday, October 10. This event is open to all.** The event will begin at 5:00 p.m. with Appetizers/Cocktails ; the main course served at 6:00 p.m. Cost of the event is $35.00 per person. **Reservations are required.** As always, widows of deceased Knights are invited to attend free of charge.

For reservations please contact John Petritis, Banquet Chairperson at 724-994-6594 or 724-684-7323

Calendar Ticket

A 2027 Cash Calendar is available for sale at St. Sebastian Parish, Belle Vernon. You may stop by their Parish Office 801 Broad Ave., Belle Vernon (9 AM - 3 PM) and pick your winning number for 365 chances to win! Any questions or for more information call Linda at 724-929-9300.

Catholic Life Explained

The Sign of Peace

The sign of peace is a part of the Mass that takes place immediately after we offer the Lord's Prayer. Inspired by the Jesus' words to his first followers, we stand together in a spirit of communion to pray as Jesus taught us: "Our Father who art in heaven..." In this prayer, we call for the coming of God's kingdom in all its fullness and ask that God provides for our needs — "Give us, this day, our daily bread" — to forgive our sins and to bring us to the joy of heaven.

It is almost natural, then, that the rite of peace would follow. As the celebrant prays that Christ's peace will fill our hearts, our communities, the Church, and the whole world, we extend to those around us a sign of peace (usually a hug or a handshake) as a symbol of the communion that we experience now and will experience forever in the fullness of the reign of God.

We are also reminded of Jesus' teachings that if we are at prayer and remember that a brother or sister is holding something against us, then we are to go and seek reconciliation with them before we continue our prayer (see Matthew 5:23). And so, the sign of peace also reminds us of the need to truly be in communion — united in love and peace — with God and one another before we approach the altar to receive the Eucharist.

So, the next time you're at Mass and the time comes for the sign of peace, remember that this is a moment to celebrate the gift of Christ's peace that each of us has received from God and to pass that peace along to those around us. We need this moment to practice, because this is also the same peace of Christ that we are instructed to carry out into the world at the end of Mass when the priest or deacon says to us, "Go, in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life." ©LPi

Purse Bash

Catholic Charities Designer Purse Bash

Tickets are on sale now for Catholic Charities' 10th Annual Designer Purse Bash & Crystal Bake Sale, set for **Sunday, Nov. 1**, at the Barn at Ligonier Valley. Doors open at noon. **Tickets are $35** and can be purchased at **www.ccharitiesgreensburg.org** or by stopping in the office during business hours, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays. The event sells out annually, so it is recommended that tickets are purchased early. For information, call 724-837-1840.

God in Ordinary Moments

Hoarding the Harvest

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

I've always thought the Parable of the Tenants could be a storyline on one of those "world's dumbest criminals" shows.

Serial murder seems like an absolutely insane course of action simply to hoard the profits of a harvest you don't legally own. In what world did the tenants think they would get away with that? Furthermore, they must have had a contract with their landowner ensuring payment for their labor. Why, all of a sudden, is this payment not enough?

It's easy to dismiss the tenants as paranoid. Selfish. Greedy.

But then I think of my soul — my own little vineyard. Who owns it? Who bought it at great cost?

You see, the Parable of the Tenants isn't a story about greed. It's a story about trust. The tenants don't trust the landowner to give them their payment, to honor his promises. They're scared. They're resentful. They're angry.

And I get it.

Around my vineyard, there is a hedge, a protective barrier of grace shielding the fruit within from the toxic fumes of a fallen world. There is a wine press, so that the harvest of my vineyard can fulfill its ultimate purpose instead of withering, forgotten, on the branch. And there is a tower, tall and sturdy, built by capable hands. From its summit, I can see predators — animals, thieves — a long time before they reach me.

But I can see something else from the tower, too. I can see the landowner's Son, making his way to the gates of my vineyard. He is coming to claim the harvest. He is coming to give me what is promised.

Do I trust him? Do I let him in? ©LPi

Faith Formation

Faith Formation Registration is now available. There are multiple options available for families to choose from. For more information, please sign up for Flocknote. ***Registration is online only....you can scan the QR code.*** If you need assistance with registration, please reach out to Adelle and we can schedule a time to meet and complete the online registration together.