



**December 14, 2025**



Today's readings

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

### 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 TRUST



### 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](http://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](mailto:aonoko@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Parochial Vicar:** Rev. Michael Thomas  
[mthomas@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:mthomas@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Bulletin Sec.:** Tara Manderino  
[tmanderino@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:tmanderino@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Regional Directors Religious Education:**  
Adelle Slebodnik, Grade 6—Adult  
[aslebodnik@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:aslebodnik@dioceseofgreensburg.org)  
Julianna Mendez Baluch, Birth—Grade 5  
[jbaluch@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:jbaluch@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Maintenance:** Patrick Frederick

## Scripture Reflection

**From Fr. Anthony Onoko:**

SOLID FOUNDATION OF GOD'S WILL, DECEMBER 4, 2025

WEEK 1, ADVENT

Is 26:1-6; Ps 118; Mt 7:21, 24-27

The Gospel today invites us to a deep and honest look at our relationship with God. Jesus says, "It is not those who say to me, Lord, Lord, who will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in heaven." These words remind us that faith is not simply something we speak with our lips, it is something we live from the heart.

Jesus is teaching us that God sees beyond outward appearance. He sees what is hidden. He sees what is true. He is not deceived by empty devotion. What He desires is a heart that is sincere, a heart that is willing to listen, a heart that loves His will more than personal preference or comfort.

Isaiah tells us in the First Reading that God keeps in perfect peace the one whose mind is steadfast because that person trusts in Him. This is the difference between a faith that is only on the surface and a faith that shapes our choices, our habits and our priorities. Real faith leans on God. It is an act of complete trust in the presence, love, power, wisdom and goodness of God. It is an act of complete obedience to God.

Dear friends, Advent is a season of truth. It is a gentle invitation to ask ourselves:

Am I truly seeking or doing the will of God in my home, in my work, in my studies, in my relationships, in my vocation, in my life?

Is my faith something genuine and rooted or is it unstable?

Do I turn to God with trust or do I seek alternative paths when life becomes difficult?

In Jeremiah 17:10, the Lord says, "I search the heart and probe the loins." He knows the truth about us. He calls us to faith that has depth, faith that can endure the winds and storms of life. Jesus says that the house built on rock can stand because its foundation is solid. That foundation is obedience to God. It is complete trust in God.

Today, let us ask for the grace to trust Him, to do His will, to be steady and honest in our devotion and to be kept in His perfect peace.

We end again by meditating on the words of the Prophet Isaiah:

You keep him in perfect peace  
whose mind is stayed on you,  
because he trusts in you.

Trust in the Lord for ever,  
for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.

## LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

**Saturday, December 13— Vigil**

4:00 PM † Evelyn Kowell by Daughter, Paula

**Sunday, December 14 — 3rd Sunday of Advent**

8:30 AM † James & Mary Zimmaro by Ken & Linda

10:30 AM † Evan Anderson by Mother, Lisa Anderson

**Monday, December 15**

8:00 AM † Christopher Salotti by Family

**Tuesday, December 16**

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

**Wednesday, December 17**

9:00 AM Mass at St. John the Baptist

**Thursday, December 18**

8:00 AM † Rita Stedeford by Dan Harkins

**Friday, December 19**

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

10:15 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

**Saturday, December 20 — Vigil**

4:00 PM † James Barron, Sr. by Carol Sepesky

**Sunday, December 21 — 4th Sunday of Advent**

8:30 AM Pro Populo

10:30 AM † Gene Yatchyshyn by wife and Children

### 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](http://www.eolparish.com)

[youtube.com/EpiphanyofOurLordCatholicChurch](https://youtube.com/EpiphanyofOurLordCatholicChurch)

[Facebook.com/Epiphany-of-Our-Lord](https://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 — Dec. 20 & 21, 2025

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 p.m.	G. Pesi	W. White L. Henry D. Harkins	Volunteer
8:30 a.m.	D. DeCarlo	J. Todd L. DeFelices S. Campus	V. Watkins
10:30 a.m.	W. Vlasic	K. Byron K. Imbrescia P. Fantauzzi	M. Guiliford

### Money Counters

**Monday, December 15** – Team #4 – J. Petritis

## Stewardship

Due to the bulletin deadline, last week's collection will be listed next week.

### Children & Family Services

As you are aware, every year the second collection at all Christmas Masses has been for those people living within our own diocese who are less fortunate than we are. This collection is titled the "Children and Family Services Appeal." Your support of this collection allows those touched by poverty, violence or brokenness to look beyond their present conditions and find the hope to work toward better circumstances. Please be generous and know that your contribution helps change the future of a family or child.

### Breakfast with Santa



This Sunday, **December 14**, is our Breakfast with Santa. You're never too old. The event is sponsored by the Epiphany Ladies and the Holy Name Society and runs from 9:30 a.m. —11:30 a.m. Breakfast is \$5 for adults; children eat for free. FCSLA will provide treat bags for the children.

### Catholic Calendar

It's hard to believe that we are looking at the end of the year! Every year, we are privileged to hand out calendars that have been donated by local businesses. It is because of their generosity that these calendars are made available. If you see those responsible, please be sure to thank them: **Janosik's Pharmacy,, Franks Service Garage, Dalfonso-Billick Funeral Home and Robert A. Billick Funeral Home.**

### Nata Nox

**St. Vincent Camerata** presents "Nata Nox — At the Manger with Mary" on Sunday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Vincent Archabbey Basilica, Latrobe. The concert will include classic Christmas carols and works ranging from the elegant polyphony of Hassler, Victoria and Sweelinck to the powerful contemporary sound of Górecki's "Totus Tuus," Biebl's beloved "Ave Maria" and Mack Wilberg's stunning setting of "O Holy Night." Admission is free, but a goodwill offering will be accepted.

### Sunday Doughnuts

Our Sunday coffee and doughnuts will be on hiatus beginning December 14. It will resume on our feast day, January 4.

## Faith

### Advent Penance Service

As we begin the Advent Season, let us take time to make room for the infant and prepare our hearts. We will hold regional penance services at 6:00 p.m. on the following dates:

**Tuesday, Dec. 16**, St. Edwards, Herminie

**Wednesday, Dec. 17**, Seven Dolours, Yukon

**Thursday, Dec. 18**, Holy Family, West Newton

**Friday, Dec. 19**, St. Anne, Rostraver

### Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Masses will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Midnight Mass and at 10:00 a.m. on Christmas Day. Please note there will only be one Mass on Christmas Day.

**Oplatki** will be available in the back of the church and the office. They are \$2.00 per pack.

### Inspiration for the Week

"Go and tell what you have seen and heard," Jesus says. When it comes to proving who he is, he always lets his actions do the talking. We have heard. We have seen. We must go and tell. Let's let our actions do the talking. Who do we think Jesus is?

### Christmas Choir

#### Choir for Midnight Mass



We welcome any choir members (both old and new) to sing together for Midnight Mass. There will be one rehearsal on **Wednesday, December 17** at 7PM in the church. For any questions, please contact Dan Godla at 412-737-

7332. Please join us! All are welcome!

### Snowball Party

When the holidays are over, the festivities continue. The Knights of Columbus, Council 954 will be holding their annual **Snowball Party on January 10, 2026**. Widows of deceased Knights are invited to attend at no cost. The cost is \$35.00/person, for active members and their guests. Reservations required by Wednesday, December 31. Please call Gary at 724-989-1424 for your reservation.

### Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities provides volunteer services to older adults (60+) including supportive and regular visits, telephone calls and mailings to prevent loneliness and isolation. To become a client, contact Deborah Klinvex at [dklinvex@DioceseofGreensburg.org](mailto:dklinvex@DioceseofGreensburg.org) or call 724-837-1840.

## Stewardship

*"Helping the poor is a matter of justice before a question of charity." ~ Pope Leo XIV*

When U.S. aid priorities shifted, 170 schools in Haiti were at risk of losing books and supplies. Your generosity changed that. Today, classrooms are filled with the tools kids need to learn and dream big. Your gift has the power to transform lives around the world. Please consider giving now to help change someone's life by visiting [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org). Thank you for your support!

## Faith

### Gaudete Sunday

This third Sunday in Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday. It is a time of joy and rejoicing and knowing that the Christ Child will soon appear. We light the 'pink', or rose colored candle, and the priest wears a rose colored vestment, symbolizing the lightening of purple and anticipating the nativity. The use of rose vestments during the sacred liturgy of the third Sunday of Advent has been a part of the Church's tradition for many centuries. Rose gives us joy and a promise of hope. Rose vestments are only used twice in the Liturgical Year: Gaudete in Advent and Laetare in Lent. Traditionally associated with joy in the midst a season of penance, the rose color reminds us that preparations are coming to a close and the great feast will soon be here.

Gaudete is the Latin word meaning 'rejoice'. For us, it is a moment of hopeful celebration.

### Questions for the week

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Question:

The prophet Isaiah taught his community to "be strong, fear not!" because God has planned a remarkable future where both the people and the land will be restored.

*Is there a friend or co-worker who needs your encouragement this week?*

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Question:

James encourages his community to be patient and firm of heart in waiting for the coming of the Lord. *What are you waiting for during this Advent season?*

#### Gospel Question:

In prison, John the Baptist seemed uncertain about who Jesus is. *Who do you talk to when you have questions about Jesus?*

## Readings for the Week

### Readings for the week of December 14

**Sunday:** Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

**Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32

**Wednesday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

**Thursday:** Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

**Friday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

**Saturday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

**Next Sunday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

THE SAINT VINCENT CAMERATA  
PRESENTS  
NATA NOX: AT THE MANGER WITH MARY  
Sacred choral music and Christmas carols honoring the Newborn Christ  
and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Friday, December 12,  
7:00 PM

Sunday, December 14,  
7:00 PM

Blessed Sacrament Cathedral  
Greensburg, PA

St. Vincent Archabbey Basilica  
Latrobe, PA

Free Admission/Donations Welcome

Chaz Bowers - Director

Fr. Stephen Concordia - Associate Director  
Conductor of Gregorian Chant Schola

Chris Pardini, Organist

Artwork by Maria Lang  
marialang.net

Saint Vincent Camerata will perform Sunday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. in the Saint Vincent Archabbey Basilica, Latrobe. The concert will include classic Christmas carols and works ranging from the elegant polyphony of Hassler, Victoria and Sweelinck to the powerful contemporary sound of Górecki's "Totus Tuus," Biebl's beloved "Ave Maria" and Mack Wilberg's stunning setting of "O Holy Night." Admission is free, but a goodwill offering will be accepted.

## Catholic Life

### Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

#### Saints or Sinners?

**Question:** Our prayer group has been reading the lives of some saints, and we were struck by how some of them thought they were such sinners. Why would someone so holy think they had such serious sin?

**Answer:** Professional athletes practice the fundamentals of their sport over and over again, reaching for better form, consistency, and performance. They focus on the basics, review past performances, and visualize greater success. Practice makes better, if not perfect!

Spiritual masters such as the saints also looked for perfection. They practiced their faith in the search for holiness, grace, and virtue. Through sacraments, prayer, study, good works, and penance, they raised their level of awareness and their sensitivity to the presence of God, the demands of the Gospel, and the workings of the Holy Spirit. They examined their consciences daily, reviewing the day for moments of failure and times that they could have been more virtuous in one way or another. They resolved to do better, be more attentive, and alert!

Therefore, anything that would distract them or interfere with their relationship with God would be like a small black spot on a bright white wall — you can't miss it! The great saints were aware of sin and the presence of evil because they were so tuned into the struggle between good and evil that was fought in their own lives, hearts, and souls.

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## The Catholic Accent

On *The Catholic Accent* TV Show, we prepare for the birth of Christ during the season of Advent. Learn why we celebrate this season of hope and how your family can participate. What do we know about Mary, the Blessed Mother and her place in the Nativity and her travel around the Diocese? Plus, see how we provide for those in need during this season of preparation. *The Catholic Accent* is always on at the [theaccentonline.org](http://theaccentonline.org).

The Catholic Accent Podcast – **Stunned Disciples** blends faith, humor and heartfelt storytelling to explore how the Gospel continues to surprise and inspire believers today. The series turns Scripture into down-to-earth conversations that invite listeners to rediscover their everyday faith journey. [TheAccentOnline.org/TheCatholicAccentPodcast](http://TheAccentOnline.org/TheCatholicAccentPodcast) or wherever you download your podcasts.

### Our Lady of Guadalupe, Explained!

The four apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe took place in December 1531, when Juan Diego, an indigenous convert to the Catholic faith, encountered a woman dressed as an Aztec princess on Tepeyac Hill in present-day Mexico City. The woman, who was pregnant, spoke to him in his native language. She identified herself as the Mother of God.



Over the next four apparitions, Our Lady requested that Juan Diego implore the local bishop to build a church on the hill, and performed miracles to prove her identity. Through one of the miracles, she imprinted her image onto Juan Diego's *tilma*, or cloak; the *tilma* bearing that image can still be viewed today at the basilica which now stands on the site of the apparition.

Our Lady of Guadalupe is venerated as the **Patroness of the Americas**, and she is beloved worldwide as a symbol of motherhood, faith and identity. Her feast day is December 12.

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## Around the Diocese

### Wigilia at Uniontown Polish Club

The Polish Heritage Club will host an authentic Polish Wigilia (Christmas Eve dinner) Friday, Dec. 19, at 6 p.m. Door prizes, basket auctions and a 50/50 raffle are planned. For more information and reservations, call 724-438-1036 by Sunday, Dec. 14.

### Pro-Life News and Information

In order to stay informed of the latest local Pro-life News & Information as well as events, go to [DioceseofGreensburg.org/pro-life-ministries/](http://DioceseofGreensburg.org/pro-life-ministries/) and click on the "Sign-Up Email" button. After submitting your name, email address, and parish or school name, you will receive the latest in area pro-life news. For more information about the Pro-life News & Information emails, contact Deacon William Newhouse at [wnewhouse@DioceseofGreensburg.org](mailto:wnewhouse@DioceseofGreensburg.org).

### The Luccitas

The Luccitas (*Little Lights*) play group meets in the St. John the Baptist, Peryopolis, parish's bilingual classroom Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m.-noon. Children newborn through age 6 are welcome.