

December 7, 2025



2nd Sunday of Advent

Today's readings

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Mass

Monday & Thursday:
8:00 a.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday,
and Friday:
No Mass

Weekend Mass

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.

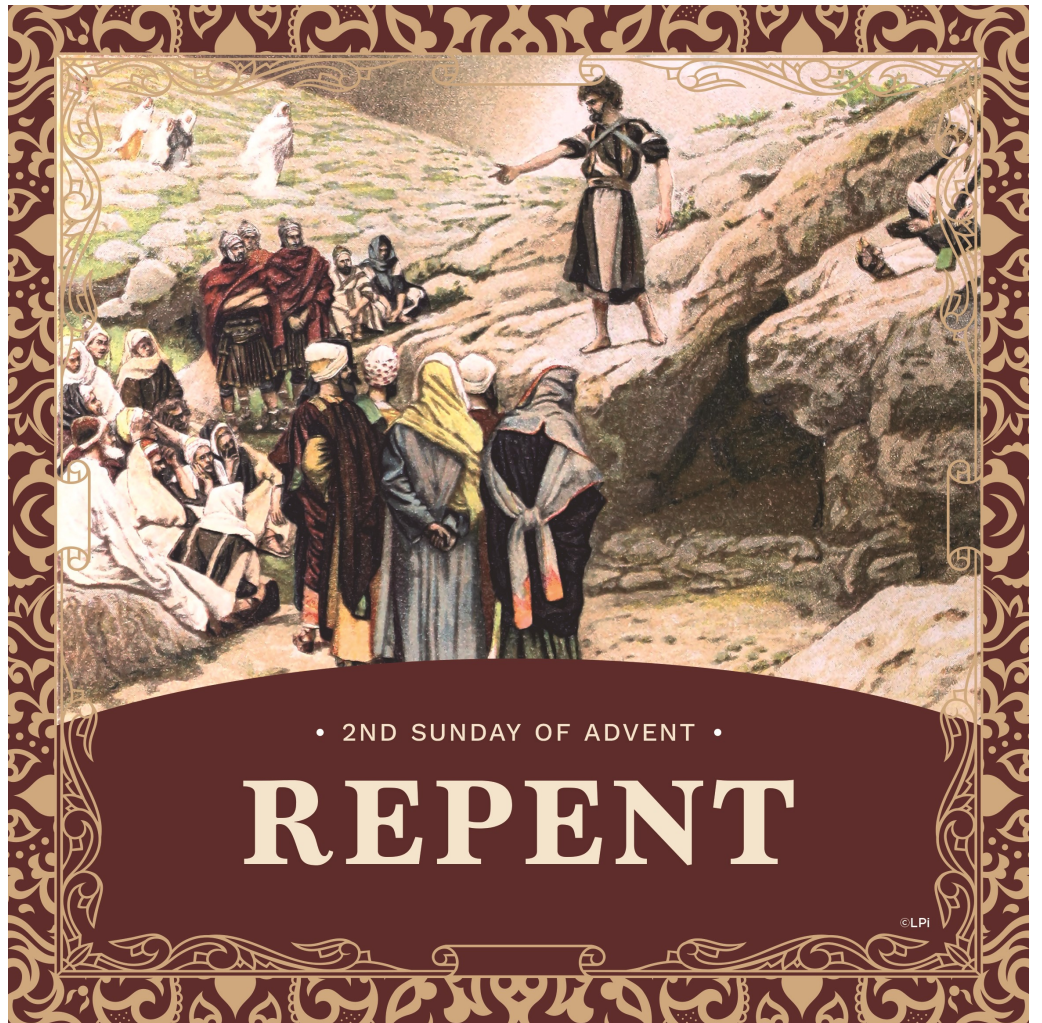
Sunday:
8:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m.

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

Office Hours

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

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Scripture Reflection

Reflecting on the prayers we use at Mass for the second week of Advent, both this Sunday and throughout the week, I am struck by the consistent call to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. The antiphons and collect emphasize that the Lord will come to save and enlighten, urging us to await His arrival with vigilance and hope. The themes of spiritual nourishment and divine mercy remind us that our efforts alone are insufficient; it is God's grace that prepares us for salvation.

The prayers over the offerings and communion highlight our humility—recognizing we have no merits to plead, only seeking God's mercy and protection. They also teach us that participation in the Eucharist is a means of spiritual renewal, guiding us to judge rightly the things of earth and to cling to the enduring truths of heaven.

Furthermore, the emphasis on light—"a great light," "scattered shadows," "children of light"—symbolizes Christ's presence illuminating our darkness. The prayer that we may love the things of heaven and hold fast to what endures encourages us to focus on eternal life, not passing worldly pursuits.

In sum, these prayers call us to active preparation, repentance, and hope, trusting in God's mercy and the promise that Christ's coming will bring salvation and light to all who await Him with sincere hearts.

Prayer for the Week

Good morning and welcome to the last month of the year. God will answer your prayers and bless you with good health. His Grace will lead you through the remaining days of this year and beyond.

You will have access to heavenly blessings and peace of mind. God will open all doors locked against your progress and happiness. He will protect you and your loved ones from seen and unseen dangers.

Every evil manipulations over your household shall be subdued. Your home will remain a source of happiness and peace in the Mighty Name of Jesus. Amen. Happy new month.

Fr. Anthony Onoko

Inspiration for the Week

The story of Advent is a story of repentance. John the Baptist held up a mirror to the chosen people. He urged them to look at what they saw there. This Advent, will we look in the mirror? Will we choose repentance

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 6 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Angeline & Albert Weathers by Temoshenka and McCarthy Families

Sunday, December 7 — 2nd Sunday in Advent

8:30 AM Pro Populo
10:30 AM † Deceased Members of the Nick Mascetta Family by Family

Monday, December 8—Feast Immaculate Conception

8:00 AM † Loretta DiBiasco by Virginia Davis

Tuesday, December 9

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

Wednesday, December 10

9:00 AM Mass at St. John the Baptist

Thursday, December 11

8:00 AM † Jackie Zelinsky by Hopkins Nida Sungla

Friday, December 12

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian
10:15 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

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 Daughter, Lisa Anderson

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

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www.eolparish.com

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. 13 & 14, 2025

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 p.m.	A. Punturiero	J. Elias M. Dzurik R. Lucas	Volunteer
8:30 a.m.	S. Stein	F. Petrosky L. DeFelices K. Imbrescia	Volunteer
10:30 a.m.	D. Yagodich	T. Mazzei E. Yatchyshyn K. Byron	S. Yatchyshyn G. Yatchyshyn

Money Counters

Tuesday, December 9 – Team #3 – K. Byron

Stewardship

Weekly Collection Nov. 23	Christmas:	400
Votive Candles:	238	Children & Adult 3,181
Utility & Energy:	50	End of Year: 100
Accent:	14	Online : 1,029
Imm. Conception:	50	Total Collection: \$6,037
Christmas Flowers:	150	CRS: 538
Advent Folder:	825	Total Collection: \$6,575
<hr/>		
Weekly Collection Nov. 30	Christmas Flowers:	10
Votive Candles:	254	Children & Adult: 2,434
Utility & Energy:	15	Online : 1,432
Accent:	30	Total Collection: \$4,325
Imm. Conception:	5	CRS: 20
St. Lucy:	5	Total Collection: \$4,345
Advent Folder:	140	

Angel Tree

Tags are ready for the Angel Tree this weekend. Your generosity to children, especially this time of year, will long be remembered by them.

Groups

The **Holy Name Society will not meet** on December 14. They, along with Epiphany Ladies, will be hosting the Breakfast with Santa event. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on January 11 following the 8:30 Mass.

Save the Date

Ladies of Faith of St. Sebastian Church as you to **Save the Date** for the "*Gathering in Faith - Meet & Greet*" for **Saturday, January 17, 2026** at St. Sebastian Parish Hall. More information to follow in the coming weeks.

Turkey Bingo Thanks

This year we had another successful Turkey Bingo bringing together friends and families. A shout out to **Pat Godla** for chairing the event. So many people worked very hard to make this happen. Thank you to the numerous volunteers: the callers, runners, kitchen crew, bakers, and all those who donated door prizes, and not least of all those who participated!

An expanded version of the bulletin is available on the website.



With Deepest Sympathy — Condolences are extended to the family of BETTY JANE LESPILETTE. May God grant her eternal rest, and comfort to her family. We commend her soul to rest in the peace of Christ.

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. 9, St. Sebastian, Belle Vernon
Wednesday, Dec. 10, Epiphany of Our Lord, Monessen
Thursday, Dec. 11, St. John the Baptist, Perryopolis
Tuesday, Dec. 16, St. Edwards, Herminie
Wednesday, Dec. 17, Seven Dolors, Yukon
Thursday, Dec. 18, Holy Family, West Newton
Friday, Dec. 19, St. Anne, Rostraver

Oplatki will be available in the back of the church and the office. They are \$2.00 per pack. Sharing Oplatki is a Polish custom that is now more widely used. Just before the Christmas Eve meal, the eldest member of the family breaks off a piece of the wafer and passes it to the next person with a blessing, which can simply be a wish for good health or happiness for the coming year.

Breakfast with Santa

All children are invited to have **Breakfast with Santa** on **Sunday, December 14** in the Epiphany Church Hall. The event is sponsored by the Holy Name Society and the Epiphany Ladies. Breakfast begins at 9:30 a.m., and will be served until 11:30 a.m. Breakfast cost is \$5.00 for adults; children eat for free. Santa will be available to hear Christmas wishes from the children. FCSLA will provide treat bags for all kids.

Cookie Walk

The Epiphany Ladies' Cookie Walk is next weekend: Saturday, December 13, 2025 from 12N-3PM in the Church Hall! **All Epiphany bakers are being asked to choose their favorite 'holiday cookie' recipes and to donate 4-5 dozen cookies per recipe to the Walk.** Boxed cookie donations can be brought to the Hall on either Friday, December 12 from 9AM to 3PM or on Saturday, from 8AM-10AM. From Noon—3 p.m. Come and select your favorite home-baked cookies from the wide array provided. Filling either a \$5 (1/2-pound bag) or \$10 (1 pound) bag is a delicious way to start the Holidays. The walk is open to the public so spread the word to family, friends and neighbors!

Ministry Schedule — Dec. 8, 2025

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
8:00 a.m.	F. Petrosky	J. Brown M. Dzurik R. Lucas	D. Harkins

Scripture Reflection

From Fr. Anthony Onoko:

THE CENTURION WHO BELIEVED

DECEMBER 1, 2025, WEEK I, ADVENT, YEAR II
Is 4:2-6; Ps 122; Mt 8:5-11

My dear friends, as we enter this first and second week of Advent, the Church calls us to reflect on the story of the Centurion who came to Jesus in his need. The Centurion is often remembered for his humility and deep faith, but today I would like us to pause and reflect on two other lessons that speak directly to our Advent journey and are beautifully echoed in the First Reading.

1. Man's helplessness without God.

The Centurion was rich, influential and powerful. He could afford the best medical care. He could command servants. His words carried authority. But in the face of a dying servant, he was utterly helpless. He reached the limit of human ability and had to run to someone greater than himself.

This is the truth of life. No matter how great the human person is or becomes, life will always be greater. Some situations will always be more than us. There will always be questions we cannot answer and problems we cannot solve on our own. The human person can never be the measure of everything. Without God, we are lost. When we reach our limit and have nowhere else to look, emptiness and meaninglessness become inevitable.

Isaiah tells us today that God Himself will be a refuge, a shelter, a canopy of protection for His people. This is exactly what the Centurion discovered: human strength collapses, but God becomes our shelter. In a world where atheism is becoming attractive and many people live with deep emptiness, this truth is more important than ever. Advent calls us to return to God as our true security and meaning.

2. Let us learn from the kindness of Jesus and His willingness to help.

When the Centurion approached Jesus, notice what Jesus did. He did not refuse him. He did not question him. He did not say He was too busy or that it was not in His plans for the day. He simply responded with kindness and was ready to stop everything to follow him. The Centurion was not part of His schedule, but love and kindness freely overflowed in His ministry.

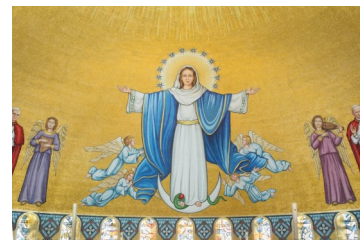
This speaks directly to us. Our gifts, resources, talents and skills mean little if we are not willing and available to help others in their need. The First Reading shows God as a shelter for His people. In the Gospel, Jesus becomes that shelter through His kindness and in our lives, we are called to allow His kindness to become visible in us.

Conclusion: As we begin Advent, let us learn from the Centurion our need for God, and from Jesus the power of simple kindness. May God be our shelter, our meaning and our strength and may our lives overflow with the same kindness that flowed so freely from the heart of Christ.

Faith

Immaculate Conception

This week we celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Catholics identify this as one of the central doctrines of our faith, and the beginning of our salvation.



The celebration of the Immaculate Conception began in the 7th Century under the title

“Conception of Mary by Saint Anne.” The title was changed with the definition of the doctrine in 1854. The doctrine is our example of what God can do, and what we can do, if like Mary, we put ourselves in God's hands. It also encourages us to do our best to remain free from sin.

Questions of the Week

1st Reading Question:

Isaiah foresaw God's future when the world will be ruled by a new and ideal ‘King David’ (“a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse”) and the earth will be filled with knowledge of the Lord. What do you hope for in your future?

2nd Reading Question:

Paul encouraged the community of believers in Rome to be in harmony with each other in thought and mind.

Are there relationships in your life you consider to be harmonious?

Gospel Question:

John the Baptist taught the people to prepare for the kingdom of heaven by repenting of sins and producing “good fruit.”

Readings for the Week

Readings for the week of December 7

Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7)/ Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next 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

Culturally Catholic

Catholic culture is so thick, you could spread it on a scone. Or a baguette. Or a slice of ciabatta bread. Or naan (Wait, do you put butter on naan? I would, because I'm Midwestern, but I sense that this is, perhaps, incorrect).

Okay, maybe my comparison is imperfect, but what I'm saying is this: Catholic culture is delicious, it's versatile, and it's nourishing. It's the same everywhere, even though it also looks and feels totally unique in every place. The Day of the Dead in Mexico, Simbang Gabi in the Philippines, St. Patrick's Day in Ireland, Meskel in Ethiopia, Semana Santa processions in Spain: these are all touchstones of Catholic culture.

It is so, so beautiful to be culturally Catholic. But today, when I hear John the Baptist's words to the Pharisees and the Sadducees, I am reminded that Catholicism is so much more than just cultural expression.

The Pharisees and Sadducees were loyal sons of Abraham and scrupulous observers of the law of Moses. Their culture, you could say, was strong. But John the Baptist is telling them — and he's telling us — that culture isn't enough.

Actions, rituals, traditions, sentiments, nostalgia — none of it matters unless it bears the fruit of a transformed heart.

It's something to remember especially as we approach Christmas, a time when culture and cultural rituals become so (beautifully) prominent. In the cultural practice of Christmas, we are like the Wise Men approaching the manger, bearing our gifts. But how terrible would it have been if the wise men had hurried away, their culture expressed, their ritual complete, and gone back to the world unchanged by the gaze of the Infant?

So be culturally Catholic. Bring these gifts to the Christ Child — but linger there. Reflect. And then when you return to the world, you will bring Catholic culture with you. ©LPi

Christmas Preparation Retreat Morning

Saturday, December 13 from 9:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at Trinity Center, Mount St. Macrina House of Prayer. The Trinity Center is located one floor about the Religious Gift Shop. Fr. Anthony Costantino will be the presentation. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered. There will be a Prayer Service and Lunch. Registration is due December 8; fee is \$45. To register, call 724-438-7149 or email: hpmsm@verizon.net. The Gift Shop will be open from 12:30 pm. to 3:30 p.m.

National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC)

The week before Thanksgiving, NCYC was held in Indianapolis, IN from November 20 through November 22. During that time, Pope Leo XIV addressed approximately 16,000 Catholic youth from across the country via livestream. A few of the messages that Pope Leo left with the youth:

- “To entrust our struggles to Jesus, we have to spend time with him in prayer. We have to have a relationship with him. In quiet, we can speak honestly about what is in our hearts. **During Eucharistic adoration, you can look at Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and know that he looks at you** — and he looks at you with love.”
- “**A real friend is not only someone who's fun to be with, though that is good too, but it's someone who helps you grow closer to Jesus:** someone who encourages you to become a better person. Good friends also push us to seek help when life gets difficult or confusing. Good friends will always tell us the truth, even when that's not easy to do.”
- “[Technology] allows us to share the Gospel with people we may never meet in person. But even with all that, **technology can never replace real in-person relationships.** Simple things — a hug, a handshake, a smile, all those things — are essential to being human and to have those things in a real way, not through a screen... Be intentional with your screen time. **Make sure technology serves your life and not the other way around.**”
- Safety is not only about rules. It's about education, and it's about personal responsibility. Filters and guidelines can help you, but they cannot make choices for you. Only you can do that. These years of your life are meant to help you grow into mature adults. Spiritually, this means deepening your friendship with God and becoming more like him. Intellectually, it means learning to think clearly, to think critically, to examine reality, and to search for truth, beauty and goodness.”
- “Be careful that your use of AI does not limit your true human growth. Use it in such a way that if it disappeared tomorrow, you would still know how to think, how to create, how to act on your own, how to form authentic friendships. Remember, **AI can never replace that unique gift that you are to the world.**”

Information is from the Incarnation Email Newsletter. To subscribe to the newsletter, complete the form at <https://www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/formation/incarnation-newsletter-subscribe/>