

March 8, 2026

3rd Sunday of Lent

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

PARISH STAFF

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Scripture Reflection

From Fr. Anthony Onoko:

JESUS AND THE SAMARITAN WOMAN: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A, MARCH 8, 2026

EXODUS 17:3-7; PSALM 95; ROMANS 5:1-2; JOHN 4: 5-42

Today is the Third Sunday of Lent, year A. In the gospel, we have a very dramatic account of the powerful encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman.

It is not just the story of Jesus and a Samaritan woman, it is our story, it is the story of what Jesus wants to do for all of us.

This morning, all I just want to do is to bring out three lessons for us to ponder on from this story.

I. Jesus has come to reconcile us to one another and to the Father.

The visit of Jesus to Samaria today is a significant event. The Jews and the Samaritans were ancient enemies. It is a long history of separation, division, hostility, enmity, rivalry and opposition. For the sake of time I may not want to go into historic details. However, just to give some insight. The Samaritans were Jews of the Northern kingdom who remained in Israel and inter-married with pagans during the Assyrian invasion in 722BC.

The Jews of the Southern kingdom hated them so much and the animosity became heightened when the Samaritans built their own place of worship in Gerizim and mixed their Judaism with some elements of paganism.

This separation gave rise to other conflicts like the Jews refusing the help of the Samaritans in reconstructing their temple, in 129BC, the Jews destroyed the Samaritan temple.

The Jews avoided the Samaritans as unclean and the worst invective known to the Jews is to call someone a Samaritan (John 8:48).

So today, Jesus went to the territory of the outcast. Ephesians 2:14-15, he is our peace and he has come to break down all forms of enmity, hatred, prejudice. As part of his mission, Jesus broke down the walls separating male and female. A rabbi was not expected to talk with a woman in public whether his wife, mother or sister. Jesus spoke with a woman, a sinner, in public.

Unfortunately, this Jews-against-Samaritans attitude still lingers on in our midst, we still have this divisive spirit, we still erect these walls between us and people. People we do not love, people we do not relate with, people we have judged and condemned, Jesus is challenging that attitude and calling us to embrace his

II. Jesus knows us and he does not condemn us.

The dialogue began with Jesus needing water and then from there Jesus asked about her personal life. She tried to hide from the Lord but Jesus made it clear that he knows her so well, he knows her past, he knows her mistakes and wrong choices but what is interesting is that Jesus did not condemn her. She never felt condemned by the one who knows all her secrets.

Some people love us because they do not know all our stories, they do not know our secrets, our weaknesses, our shortcomings, our past, if they had known, they will not love us and when they discover they might stop loving us. It is not everyone we can trust with our truth, some will crucify us and then announce to the world our faults.

We are also sometimes disappointed in people the same way people become disappointed in us. When we stumble on someone's truth, we become disappointed and the vestige of affection and respect we have for them disappears. Jesus is not like us, he knows us, all our mistakes and weaknesses, our pretence and our shameful deeds but then he never condemns us, he does not stop loving us. Despite everything, he loves us.

In the first reading, we see how impatient the people of Israel are, but then God does not stop loving them and supplying their needs.

St Paul says in the second reading that even while we were still sinners, God loves us and Christ died for us.

This is the God we serve. This is the kind of attitude He wants us to have, even when we realise people's weaknesses, defects, mistakes and shameful past, we should not judge or hate them but still treat them with love, mercy, patience and compassion.

III. Jesus changed the woman.

Jesus is the one who can change us and the person whose lives we reckon are in need of transformation.

This woman came to the well as a sinful and ignorant woman. She was informed and transformed, she became the missionary to the Samaritans.

This is what the grace of God does in the life of a person, this is what we need to pray for in the life of our sons or daughters who have backed out of the faith, our friends, colleagues, parents who do not find our faith sensible, our brother/sister killing him/herself by his/her addiction and wrong lifestyle, pray that they may encounter Jesus and be transformed into who they are created to be.

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, March 7 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Deceased Family Members by Myron & Beatrice Ciepley

Sunday, March 8 — 3rd Sunday of Lent

8:30 AM † Nancy Rizzuto by Ted & Judith Pettko
10:30 AM Pro Populo

Monday, March 9

8:00 AM † Ron Godla by Gloria Hayes

Tuesday, March 10

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

Wednesday, March 11

9:00 AM Mass at St. John the Baptist

Thursday, March 12

8:00 AM † Gloria Belczyk by Sophia Janol

Friday, March 13

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian
10:15 AM Mass at St. Sebastian
6:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 14 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Kotch and Oleksak Family by Family

Sunday, March 15 — 4th Sunday of Lent

8:30 AM Pro Populo
10:30 AM † Deceased members of Volpe Family by Rosina Volpe

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 — March 14 & 15, 2026

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 p.m.	S. Surdyn	W. White J. Elias L. Henry	D. Harkins
8:30 a.m.	F. Petrosky	S. Stein J. Todd T. Todd	G. Pesl
10:30 a.m.	W. Vlasic	K. Byron K. Imbrescia E. Yatchyshyn	S. Yatchyshyn G. Yatchyshyn

Money Counters

Monday, March 9 – Team #1 – B. Geis

Bake Sale reminder For Friday, March 13, we ask those whose last name begins with **Q — Z** to bring in baked goods.

Faith

Stations of the Cross are held on Friday at 6 p.m. We will need **volunteers to lead the stations on March 13**. Please let us know if you are willing.

Lenten Retreat with Fr. Barnabas O'Reilly, OSB on **Monday, March 9**, at St. Sebastian: "Why didn't God just bring us to Eden?" **Tuesday, March 10** at Epiphany of Our Lord: "What am I supposed to be doing with my life right now?" and **Wednesday, March 11** at St. John the Baptist: "What's actually happening at Mass?" All sessions will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Stewardship

Weekly Collection March 1		Children & Adult:	6,322
Votive Candles:	158	Online :	3,015
Utility & Energy:	458	Total Collection:	\$10,341
Accent:	8	Home Mission:	45
Easter Flowers:	105	Eastern Europe:	35
Lenten Folder:	170	Heifer:	220
Ash Wednesday:	105	Total Collection:	\$10,641

It's time for **Spring Cleaning!** The Epiphany Ladies will be Spring Cleaning the Church on Saturday, March 28 at 9AM. Cleaning supplies will be provided, though extra cleaning cloths would be helpful. The more hands, the lighter the load! All **interested parishioners are welcome** to join the Ladies in freshening our Church for Easter.

Heifer

This week, we boarded **1 goat, 1 flock of geese** and **1 trio of rabbits!** Stories in the expanded version.

Groups

CDA Court Monessen #776 will meet in the Epiphany Church Hall on Sunday, March 15, following the 10:30 a.m. Mass. We will have our **Lenten Reflection**. New members welcome. If you have any questions, please call Regent Debbie Genemore at 724-708-8335

Movie Night

Be inspired as we prepare to enter into Holy Week. We will show **Risen** on Thursday, **March 26 at 6:30 p.m.** in the church hall. Catholic News Service and Bishop Barron call Risen "robustly Christian and substantially faithful to the biblical account of what transpired after the death of Jesus."


Sausage Sale

Sausage orders will be taken until **March 15**. The order form is on the expanded bulletin on the website. Call in your order, or for more info, contact **Jason 724-454-8688**. Please make checks out to **Knights of Columbus 954**.


Celebrate 75 Years of Faith

KNOW HIM

DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG




1951 2026
Diocese of Greensburg



DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG
EST. 1951

MARCH 19
2 and 6 PM
Christ Our Shepherd Center
2900 Seminary Drive - Greensburg

To learn more scan the QR code or follow the address



Join us in remembering our past, celebrating our present, and preparing our hearts to step forward in hope. Come encounter Christ in the Diocese of Greensburg in prayer, worship, and fellowship.

As we celebrate our 75th Anniversary, come be renewed in faith, strengthened in community, and recommit to the mission entrusted to us.

From many, we are One in Christ.

DioceseofGreensburg.org/KNOWHIM

As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Diocese of Greensburg, join us in remembering our past, celebrating our present and preparing our hearts to step forward in hope at KNOW HIM: Diocese of Greensburg Thursday, March 19, at 2 and 6 p.m. at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg. Come encounter Christ in the Diocese of Greensburg in prayer, worship and fellowship; be renewed in faith and strengthened in community; and recommit to the mission entrusted to us. From many, we are One in Christ. Registration is free but limited. Register now at DioceseofGreensburg.org/KNOWHIM.

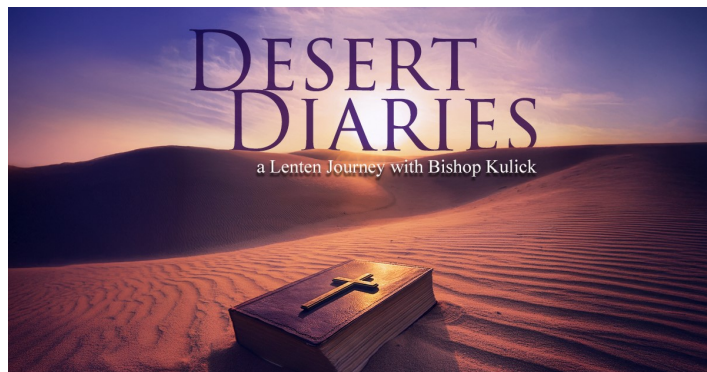
Kerygma Retreat

Kerygma Discipleship Retreat

Want to hear the Gospel message with new ears? Are you looking to deepen your relationship with Jesus? Are you looking to discover joyful living through your faith? Find all of that and more at the Kerygma Discipleship Retreat **April 10-12 at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg.** The retreat is designed to give you an opportunity to begin, renew or strengthen your relationship with Jesus Christ. It's a time to evaluate where you are in your Christian way of life and discover practical ways to stay close to Him. **Learn more about this transformative retreat at DioceseofGreensburg.org/Kerygma.**

Lenten Podcast

Follow Bishop Larry J. Kulick throughout Lent with his special podcast, *Desert Diaries*. If you hear the word "desert" and think of emptiness, struggles or something you'd rather avoid, you're not alone. But **in Scripture, the desert isn't a place God abandons people – it's often where he meets them most deeply.** As we continue our journey through Lent, Bishop Kulick explores how Jesus' time in the desert can help us understand our own struggles and questions, and the places in our lives that God is asking us to grow and intentionally change the way we walk toward Easter. You can watch or listen to *Desert Diaries* at theaccentonline.org or download from where you download your podcasts.



Save the Date

Plan to attend our next Diocesan pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. It will be led by Bishop Larry J. Kulick on **Saturday, Sept. 19**, and is one of the special events planned to celebrate the 75th anniversary of our Diocese. Further information will be forthcoming this spring.

Weekly Readings

Readings for the week of March 8

Sunday: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 42:3, 4/Lk 4:24-30

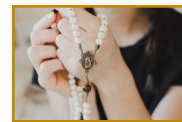
Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:14-23
Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17/Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/Lk 18:9-14

Next Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38



Heifer



Pigs are a great investment for farmers. They can live 10—15 years. Because pigs don't need much land and can thrive on garden scraps and crops, they are low maintenance. In addition, they provide manure to fertilize crops. Before she joined one of our pig projects, Constance Ndèye Faye's small farm in Senegal only generated about **\$1.18 per day in income and she never seemed to have enough food to feed her family.** Now her small farm is thriving. She has 10 pigs and has completed the requirement to Pass on the Gift of offspring. *"Passing on the Gift® allows everyone to benefit from the project,"* Constance says. *"Now almost all the women have pigs,"* she adds. Constance's pigs have produced more than 30 piglets which she has been able to sell. Some of the earnings she puts toward food, but much of this new income goes to pay school fees. *"I want my children to succeed so that tomorrow they will be able to manage their family,"* says Constance.

A gift of a **cow** is life-changing. They are key animals in the history of farming. Young female cows that haven't calved yet are known as "heifers". The first animals that Heifer gave were three cows named Faith, Hope and Charity.



Oscar Kpese lives in the village of Dodowa in Ghana. Before his parents joined a dairy project, **Oscar's family was very poor and suffered from chronic health problems due to poor nutrition.** Then Oscar's family received the gift of a heifer and training in its care. Now they have nearly a gallon of milk to drink every day. Plus, by using manure to fertilize the crops, their harvests are much more abundant.

As a result, the **family's income is up 200 percent** and they are almost entirely self-sufficient. Best of all, they have already helped another family in need by Passing on the Gift® of a calf.



Blessing of Living Water

Lord, where there has been dryness in my life, bless me with Your living water!

Where I fear to dream of new hope and growth, bless me with Your living water!

Where I'm thirsty for new and abundant life, bless me with Your living water!

Drench the parched earth with Your promise, bless me with Your living water!

Amen.

Faith

Inspiration for the Week

Jesus did not convert the Samaritan woman with miracles. He converted her with presence. He was not afraid of her sins or her failures. He listened to her. He sat with her. Let us learn from this: when we are present to others, we can show them the face of God.

Questions of the Week

1st Reading Question

God answers Moses' prayer of petition to give the Israelites water to drink before they die of thirst in the desert.

What would you like to ask from the Lord in the upcoming week?

2nd Reading Question

Paul tells the Romans to have hope because the Holy Spirit pours the love of God into our hearts.

What are you hoping for this Lent?

Gospel Question

The Samaritan woman eventually comes to believe in Jesus as the Messiah and savior of the world.

What convinces you that Jesus is your Lord and Savior?



Remember that we have a delicious Fish Fry every Friday from 11:00 am until 7:00 pm!

Sausage Sale

Homemade Sausage Sale

The Knights of Columbus will hold a sausage sale on March 31—April 1. All orders must be in by Sunday, March 15. Put in your order now to make sure you get it! The sausage will be sold at \$6.00 /lb. Minimum order is 2 lb. per item. All orders MUST be made on the order form.

Link	Loose	
___ lbs.	___ lbs.	Sweet Sausage
___ lbs.	___ lbs.	Hot Sausage
___ lbs.	___ lbs.	Hot Hot Sausage

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Orders may be placed by filling out the order form above, placing it in an envelope marked "Sausage Order" and depositing it in the collection basket. To call in your order, or for more info, contact **Jason 724-454-8688**. Please make checks out to **Knights of Columbus 954**.