

**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



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## 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 Director of Faith Formation & Discipleship:**  
Adelle Slebodnik, [aslebodnik@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:aslebodnik@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Regional Faith Formation Coordinator:**  
Maureen Ruschak, [mruschak@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:mruschak@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Maintenance:** Patrick Frederick

## 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	<b>Total Collection:</b>	<b>\$10,341</b>
Accent:	8	Home Mission:	45
Easter Flowers:	105	Eastern Europe:	35
Lenten Folder:	170	Heifer:	220
Ash Wednesday:	105	<b>Total Collection:</b>	<b>\$10,641</b>

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**.