THE Epiphany OF OUR Lord

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

August 23, 2026

21st 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

Maintenance: Patrick Frederick

Reflections

From Fr. Anthony Onoko:

Is 22:19-23; Ps 138; Rm 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20

Grace and peace to you, my dear brethren in Christ.

The readings of today speak about authority, responsibility and our personal knowledge of Jesus Christ.

The Key of Authority

In the First Reading, Shebna is removed from office and Eliakim is appointed in his place. God says that He will place on Eliakim's shoulder "the key of the house of David." The key represents authority: what he opens, no one shuts; what he shuts, no one opens.

This is very important for understanding today's Gospel. Jesus says to Peter: "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven." Jesus deliberately uses the language of Isaiah. As Eliakim received authority in the house of David, Peter receives a particular authority in the household of Christ, the Church.

This reminds us that authority in the Church is not merely human ambition or privilege; it is a responsibility entrusted by God for the service of His people.

Who Do You Say I Am?

At Caesarea Philippi, Jesus first asks what people are saying about Him. They have many answers: John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.

But Jesus moves from public opinion to personal conviction: "But you, who do you say I am?"

Peter responds: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

This is the question every Christian must eventually answer. It is not enough to know what our parents, priests, friends or the Church say about Jesus. Who is Jesus to me personally?

Our answer cannot remain only on our lips. If Jesus is truly the Christ and Lord, then that confession must influence our choices, relationships, priorities and way of life.

Everything Comes From God

St Paul concludes beautifully in the Second Reading: "From him and through him and for him are all things." God's wisdom is deeper than ours. Peter's faith itself was not merely human intelligence; Jesus says it was revealed by the Father. We are reminded that all authority and knowledge is from God. Hence we are called to be humble before God and honour Him as the source of everything good that we have.

May the Lord deepen our faith in Jesus Christ. May He help us to recognise Him, confess Him courageously and live according to our confession. May He give wisdom and fidelity to Pope Leo, the successor of Peter, and to all who exercise authority in His Church. And may our lives always proclaim with Peter: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Amen.

Wisdom Nugget

An African adage says whoever got beaten by the rain but wasn't struck by lightning should be very grateful.

The Wisdom

Gratitude is key in every situation, regardless of how bad you think your current situation is, always have it at the back of your mind that it could actually be worse, but it's not. So be always be grateful my friend.

Blessings of the new week to all of you

Fr. Anthony

Certification Opportunity

Franciscan At Home Certification

The Diocese of Greensburg has partnered with the Catechetical Institute at Franciscan University to offer **Standard Catechist Certification** online. The courses that correspond with our Standard Certification courses can now be found on the Diocese of Greensburg landing page on Franciscan at Home's website at **https://franciscanathome.com/diocese-greensburg**. All courses and webinars are free for all members of the Diocese of Greensburg by choosing the second option: "My parish or school is already registered..."

Pilgrimage

Bishop Larry J. Kulick invites you to join him for the Diocese of Greensburg's 75th Anniversary Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, Sept. 19. The full schedule and registration can be seen at DioceseofGreensburg.org/Pilgrimage

Prayer for the Month of August

Heavenly Father,

We come before You with humble hearts, lifting up all who are suffering in body, mind, and spirit.

We especially pray for those battling cancer, diabetes, and the dangers of heat and exhaustion. Surround them with Your healing presence, grant strength to their bodies, peace to their minds, and hope to their hearts. Guide the hands of caregivers and medical professionals, and bless families who walk this difficult journey alongside their loved ones.

As we enter the new month of August, we ask for Your continued mercy and protection. Let Your light shine upon all who are weary, renewing their strength day by day. May Your grace bring comfort in times of pain and restoration where there is illness. Fill us all with compassion, that we may support one another in love and faith.

We trust in Your goodness and place all our needs into Your hands, knowing that You are our refuge and our healer. Through every trial, help us to remain steadfast in hope, confident in Your promises.

We ask this in Your holy name. Amen.

New month blessings to all of you. The month of August shall favor you and your family. Amen.

~ Fr. Anthony Onoko

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, August 22 — Vigil
4:00 PM † Arthur & Lena Marino by Suzanne Surdyn & Randy Marino

Sunday, August 23 — 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 AM † Virginia Quattro by Family
10:30 AM Pro Populo

Monday, August 24
8:00 AM † Dolores R. Harhai by Family

Tuesday, August 25
8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

Wednesday, August 26
9:00 AM Mass at St. John the Baptist

Thursday, August 27
8:00 AM † Joanne Cocciolone & Carl Cocciolone by Family

Friday, August 28
8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

Saturday, August 29 — Vigil
4:00 PM † John Dudas by Daughter & Family

Sunday, August 30 — 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 AM Pro Populo
10:30 AM † Gene Yatchyshyn by Wife & 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
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 — August 29 & 30, 2026

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
9:30 p.m.	D. Harkins	L. Henry J. Brown Volunteer	G. Pesi
8:30 a.m.	D. DeCarlo	C. Pawelec F. Petrosky T. Todd	J. Todd
10:30 a.m.	D. Yagodich	W. White T. Gigliotti Volunteer	M. Guiliford

Money Counters
Monday, August 24 — Team #5 — M. Smith

Stewardship

Weekly Collection August 16

Votive Candles:	242	Online :	1,563
Utility & Energy:	125	**Total Collection:**	**$9,696**
Accent::	78	Catholic University:	50
Assumption:	611	Clergy Formation:	25
Children & Adult:	7,077	**Total Collection:**	**$9,771**

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 $3,329 toward our parish goal of $20,000.

Catholic Education Collection

Next week. **August 29 and 30**, we will have a second collection the to support Catholic Education. Half of the funds of this collection goes to support The Catholic University of America and half is used to aid the Catholic schools here in our own Diocese. The Catholic University in Washington, DC is unique among the Catholic institutions of higher education because it is the national university for the Catholic Church in the United States. It is the only higher education institution founded by the American bishops and chartered by the Vatican.

Within the Diocese, we have ten grade schools and two high schools. The parents of students in our 12 schools sacrifice to send to their children to a Catholic school because they recognize how important academics and Catholic values are to their child's lifelong success. Our Catholic schools are an asset to our communities.

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: _____

Faith Formation for our families with youth from infant through 12th Grade has been finalized. There will be mulitple options to help meet the needs of our families. Families are asked to sign-up for our new communication method: **Flocknote.** Families that sign up will be sent our format for the coming year and registration information.

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.

First Communion & Confirmation

All parents of 2nd and 8th students are to attend a Mandatory Sacrament Meeting. Two have already been completed. The last meeting is scheduled for **August 25**. Signup for Flocknote to receive complete information. Preparation sessions begin in September.

Parish App

Don't have the app yet? Search for **WeConnect Parish App** in the Apple Store or Google Play or use the appropriate QR code .

Apple

Android

Communion to the Homebound

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

Festival Thanks. . .

My heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make our parish festival such a success!

The festival was the result of weeks and months of planning, preparation, cooking, organizing, cleaning, and countless acts of service. During the festival, so many generously shared their time, energy, and talents to make everything come together.

While it is impossible to name everyone, I especially thank **Robert Sassak**, chairman of the Festival Committee, for his leadership and for keeping everyone on track.

Whether you cooked, served, set up tables, welcomed guests, worked games, cleaned up, or helped in other ways, your contributions mattered. By attending and participating, you also helped create a joyful, welcoming atmosphere.

Thank you for your generosity, hard work, and fellowship. I am truly grateful for each of you!

Fr. Anthony

Virtues Explained

Valor, *Explained!*

Though valor itself is not a cardinal or theological virtue, as a Latin-based word that means "strength," we often associate it with the gift of fortitude. Specifically, it conjures an image of fortitude on the battlefield — of fidelity to the good fight, regardless of the coming attack.

When Christ presides at the Last Supper in the Gospel of John, he speaks to his Apostles of the persecutions that will soon be suffered by him and by them. He also speaks of the Advocate (the Holy Spirit) who will "guide you to all truth" — a significant choice, since fortitude is not only a virtue, but a gift of the Holy Spirit. "Behold, the hour is coming...when each of you will be scattered...and you will leave me alone," Christ tells them. "But I am not alone, because the Father is with me."

In the world, he concludes, there will be pain and suffering. "But take courage, I have conquered the world." (John 16:13-33).

Inspiration for the Week

"Who do you say that I am?" Jesus asks his apostles. Peter is the first to answer. He knows who Jesus is. Do we? In everything we do and everything we are, let us say together with Peter: "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

Faith

If you are assisting with OCIA, you are invited to a day of formation, encouragement and fellowship . To register, scan the QR code below or visit DioceseofGreensburg.org/OCIAtraining. For info, email FFD@DioceeofGreensburg.org

Readings for the Week

Readings for the week of August 23

Sunday: Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-2a, 2b-3, 6 and 8/Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20
Monday: Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18/Jn 1:45-51
Tuesday: 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13/Mt 23:23-26
Wednesday: 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/Mt 23:27-32
Thursday: 1 Cor 1:1-9/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt 24:42-51
Friday: 1 Cor 1:17-25/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11/Mt 25:1-13
Saturday: 1 Cor 1:26-31/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21/Mk 6:17-29
Next Sunday: Jer 20:7-9/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27

Around the Diocese

Italian Day Food & Bake Sale, St. Rita Parish, Connellsville, Friday, **September 4** from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Featured will be two Italian dinners: spaghetti and meatballs and manicotti and meatballs, both including salad, roll and cake. Pizza and hot sausage sandwiches will also be sold. Dinners will be eat in or take out, and baked goods will be available for purchase.

Car Show & Spaghetti Dinner, St. James Parish, New Alexandria on Sunday, **September 13 f**rom Noon to 4 p.m. First 100 cars registered will receive a dash plaque. Trophies awarded. Dinner is $14 for adults and $5 for ages 10 and under. Other food available. For information, call 724-668-2829 (option 3) or 724-309-0282.

St. George Maronite church, Uniontown, 6 Lebanon Terrace, Uniontown, will hold their 30th Annual **Lebanese Food & Cultural Festival** on Saturday, **September 19** from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Vibrant Lebanese Music from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., basket raffle and more. Baked Kibbee, Lamb Kebab, Chicken Kebab, Tabbouli, Labneh and more. Lebanese baked goods available. We will also have chicken tenders and fries. Divine Liturgy at 4 p.m. in the Church. 724-437-5589.

Golf Outing

Saint Bruno Parish will hold its RAS Golf Outing **Saturday, Sept. 26,** at Glengarry Golf Links, Latrobe. The format will be Scramble Best Ball. Registration begins at 7 a.m. with an 8 a.m. shotgun start. The $120 entry fee includes 18 holes of golf with cart, a snack at the turn, a steak dinner, beverages and prizes. For information, email kedmunds216@yahoo.com or call 412-613-2348.

Let's Bowl

If you're looking for a place to gather and have fun, think about joining the Epiphany Church Bowling League. We bowl on Monday nights. If you have any questions or would like more information, contact Evie Yatchyshyn at 412-496-7802

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

God in Ordinary Moments

Only Peter Has the Answer

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

"What do you think of the Pope?"

After the election of Pope Leo XIV in 2025, all my non-Catholic friends texted me this question. The result of the papal conclave was dominating the news cycle, and everyone was curious about this man who would now be so prominent on the world stage, making me temporarily popular with people who apparently need more (and better) Catholics in their lives.

In today's Gospel, we see Jesus entrust Peter and his heirs with the stewardship of the kingdom here on earth, creating an unbroken line of authority which stretches through the millennia all the way to our current Pope — whoever he is at the time you are reading this.

I don't know if you like the Pope. The same goes for your local bishop and your pastor. If a friend texted you, "What do you think of him?" I have no idea how you would respond.

All I know is this: it doesn't really matter. What really matters is what we would say if a friend texted us the same question about Jesus Christ: "What do you think of him, and why?"

In today's Gospel, Jesus doesn't ask his disciples to take an IQ test. He doesn't try to find out which one is the nicest, the hardest worker, the most humble, or even the holiest.

He asks a very simple question: "Who do you say that I am?"

Peter has the answer.

I am not Catholic because I like the Pope. I am not Catholic because the human representatives of the Church have anything to offer me (they often do, but this is beside the point).

I am Catholic because only Peter has the answer.

"What do you think of the Pope?"

After the election of Pope Leo XIV in 2025, all my non-Catholic friends texted me this question. The result of the papal conclave was dominating the news cycle, and everyone was curious about this man who would now be so prominent on the world stage, making me temporarily popular with people who apparently need more (and better) Catholics in their lives.

In today's Gospel, we see Jesus entrust Peter and his heirs with the stewardship of the kingdom here on earth, creating an unbroken line of authority which stretches through the millennia all the way to our current Pope — whoever he is

(Only Peter cont.)

at the time you are reading this.

I don't know if you like the Pope. The same goes for your local bishop and your pastor. If a friend texted you, "What do you think of him?" I have no idea how you would respond.

All I know is this: it doesn't really matter. What really matters is what we would say if a friend texted us the same question about Jesus Christ: "What do you think of him, and why?"

In today's Gospel, Jesus doesn't ask his disciples to take an IQ test. He doesn't try to find out which one is the nicest, the hardest worker, the most humble, or even the holiest.

He asks a very simple question: "Who do you say that I am?"

Peter has the answer.

I am not Catholic because I like the Pope. I am not Catholic because the human representatives of the Church have anything to offer me (they often do, but this is beside the point).

I am Catholic because only Peter has the answer. ©LPi

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.

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: _____