



**December 31, 2023**



**Feast of the Holy Family**

### 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: 11:30 a.m.  
Or by appointment

**All Sacraments:**

Please call the office



### OUR LOCATION

**Epiphany of Our Lord Catholic Church**

44 Pennsylvania Blvd., Monessen, PA 15062

📞 724-684-7661

🌐 [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. Michael J. Crookston  
[mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Director of Faith Formation:**  
Scott Martin  
[smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

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

**Maintenance:** Patrick Frederick

## LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

### Saturday, December 30 — vigil

4:00 PM † Anthony Manderino II by Tara & sons

### Sunday, December 31 — Feast of the Holy Family

8:30 AM † Kirk & Ken Danko by Dad & Mom

10:30 AM Dolores Harhai in honor of 100th Birthday  
by Daughter & Sons

### Vigil, Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**4:00 PM** † Clarita Billick by Gary, Doreen & Abigail Smith

### Monday, January 1—Solemnity of Mary

**9:00 AM** Mass at St. Sebastian

### Tuesday, January 2

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

### Wednesday, January 3

No Mass

### Thursday, January 4

8:00 AM † Metro Petrosky, Jr by Flo Petrosky

### Friday, January 5

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

### Saturday, January 6 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Stella & Walter Anders by Sons

### Sunday, January 7 — The Epiphany of the Lord

8:30 AM † Julia Francowic by Harhai Family

10:30 AM † Albert 'Cooky' Foglia by Max & Jamie  
Chywki

### Parish Office:

**44 PENNSYLVANIA BLVD  
MONESSEN, PA 15062**

**Parish Office:** 724-684-7661

**Church Hall:** 724-684-5512

**Religious Education:** 724-929-9300

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

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

[Facebook.com/Epiphany-of-Our-Lord](https://www.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.

**The Office will be closed on New Year's Day.**

### Ministry Schedule — January 6 & 7

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 p.m.	D. Harkins	A. Punturiero	Volunteer
8:30 a.m.	F. Petrosky	S. Campus	T. Todd
10:30 a.m.	W. Vlasic	T. Mazzei	M. Guiliford N. Speiche

### Money Counters

**Tuesday, January 2**—Team #2— W. Anders

## We are all Holy Families!

Our celebration this week end concentrates on the “Holiness” of our families. Holiness is not a misty-eyed, otherworldly mode of living. Rather it is a realistic engagement in the difficulties, struggles, and tensions of human life and relating. Our own modern families are like the Holy Family in that, as they did, we too all face challenges in responding to God faithfully and obediently. The holiness of a family is not dependent upon perfection or an easy road. As Mary and Joseph showed us, holiness is dependent on faithfulness and obedience to God’s message. What makes Jesus, Mary, and Joseph a holy family is their faithful, obedient response to God’s message. Our families (and the family of the church) are also holy in our responding faithfully to God’s will for us.



Today it is difficult to define what a family should be; in fact I believe that family life today is beyond defining. None of us can be completely free from assumptions about families and a “well intended” list of family values that we should follow. Sometimes these values are sincere but sometime they are cynical. When we look at the holy family we do not look at them for the sociological model that they provide, rather they become a model of faith for us. So, the issue on this day is not that we should try to read into this feast a proposal for how to live as a family, but how each of us should remain open and obedient to the word of God.

We spend a lot of time in life looking around and seeing what we want in life. Every one of us is guilty of making so many “comparisons” to what others have or how they live. In the process we are completely missing out on what we have. Family life in our society today has gone through so many drastic changes that none of us fit very well into a defined role, and I don’t think that is such a bad thing. If we are honest with each other, we all live with some sort of dysfunction in life, there is no such thing as a perfect family.

Today we are reminded that we ought to be grateful for the people we have in life and most especially our families. Whether we are a traditional family or a single parent family, whether we have biological or adopted or foster children or no children, whether we live in an expensive home or a subsidized rental unit makes no difference for living as a holy family. What does make a difference is hearing God’s message and doing God’s will. Hearing God’s message and responding to God’s will made the Holy Family holy, it makes our families holy, too!

This is what living Christ’s message is all about: responding to both hardships and God’s wonderful gifts of grace with fidelity and obedience. Sometimes it is the very hardships that help us put our priorities straight and realize how dependent on our loving God we really are.



### DCCW Pray for Life Day Jan. 19

Everyone is invited to join in a day of prayer hosted by the Greensburg Diocesan Council of the National Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg, on Friday, Jan. 19, the day of the March for Life in Washington, D.C. The day will begin with the Rosary for Priests at 11:30 a.m., followed by Mass at noon, Rosary for Life, Stations of the Cross for Life, Divine Mercy chaplet at 3 p.m., Litany for Life at 3:30 p.m. and closing prayer at 4 p.m. There is no cost, and those attending can stay all day or part of the day. The DCCW will also be accepting donations of baby items for pregnancy centers in the Diocese.



## Stewardship

### Tax Statements

It is that time of year when we need to start gathering our information to file taxes! If you would like a statement from the Church, please let us know and we will get one sent to you after the first week of the new year.

#### Weekly Collection Dec. 17

Votive Candles:	160
Utility & Energy:	45
Accent:	97
Advent:	30
Christmas Flowers:	245
Christmas:	520
Imm. Conception:	172
St. Lucy:	208
Oplatki:	302
Children & Adult Collection:	5,722
Online Collection:	1,403
End of Year:	3,225
<b>Total Collection:</b>	<b>\$12,129</b>
Children & Family	20
<b>Total Collection:</b>	<b>\$12,149</b>

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

## Knights' News

Our church is fortunate to have an active chapter of the Knights of Columbus. If you're used to only seeing the Knights' at Easter Vigil or the monthly rosary, know that they do so much more. Recently, the Monessen Knights of Columbus have:

- Sent our twice a year donation to two seminarians we support, giving them assistance with their schooling expenses,
- Donated \$400 to the local Special Olympics.
- Raised and matched donations of \$2500 for the ARCDD for their Christmas party for our area disabled and handicapped individuals.
- Donated \$340 to *Wreaths Across America* for placement of 30 wreaths on the gravesites of American veterans.
- Funded the message *Keep CHRIST in Christmas* on the marquee on Donner Avenue in Monessen and erected the display at the Council Hall.

Thank you to the **Holy Name Society** for delivering fruit baskets to our shut-ins. Your deliveries have brightened the holidays for many.

## Retrouvaille

The Holidays can be stressful in many ways. If you feel that your marriage is being tested, there is help. If your marriage suffers from Disillusionment or Misery, please contact Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i). For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on February 16, 2024, please contact Retrouvaille at 412-277-3434. More information is available at [helpourmarriage.org](http://helpourmarriage.org).

## Calendars

Calendars donated by local businesses are available. It is because of their goodness and generosity that these are available to our parishioners. I would like to thank:

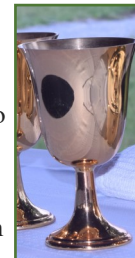
**Janosik's Pharmacy, Dalfonso-Billick Funeral Home, Frank's Service Garage, and the Robert A. Billick Funeral Home** for once again making this possible.

## Faith

### Reinstating the Reception of the Cup

Beginning the weekend of **February 17-18** we are going to reinstitute reception from the cup during Communion. It has been over three years since we were able to receive from the cup.

If we are going to reinstate this at our parish we will need more **Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion**, otherwise we will not be able to do it. I am asking that you consider becoming a minister for Holy Communion. Since you are already at Mass, this is just one way you can be more fully a part of it. I will have more information on this in the coming weeks. We have not been able to receive from the cup for the past forty months.



**First Penance** for Second Graders will be on **Thursday, January 4 at 6:00 p.m.** at St. Sebastian Church. Also, Religious Education classes will resume on Monday, **January 8 at 6:30 p.m.** This is for parents and students.

### Ministry Callout

Please let Tara know if there are any changes to your schedule by Friday, January 12. The new schedule will run from January 21 through March 10. Please call the office or email Tara at [tmanderino@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:tmanderino@dioceseofgreensburg.org).

### Another Blessed Christmas!

*Once again this year as I look back over the season of Advent and Christmas it is wonderful to be able to recognize the many blessings of God's love that we have been given. In celebrating the feast of the Holy Family this week end, it is easy to recognize that as a parish we do live like the "Holy Family," in God's grace and love.*

*The generosity of all our parishioners is overwhelming. I cannot begin to thank you enough for the many gifts and cards that you gave to me; I am both humbled and blessed!*

*As I look at what wonderful and kind people that make up our parish, we are all truly blessed. Your generosity of not only your treasure but also of your time and talent speak for themselves. It is good to clearly see that we do get the message Jesus was born to teach us!*

*I would like to recognize and thank you all for what you do for your church. During this busy time of the year the way you shared your precious time speaks so well of God's grace in our midst.*

*Fr. Mike*

