



December 10, 2023



Today's readings

**2nd Sunday
in Advent**

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



A PENNSYLVANIA CHARITABLE TRUST



OUR LOCATION

Epiphany of Our Lord Catholic Church

44 Pennsylvania Blvd., Monessen, PA 15062

 724-684-7661

 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

Director of Faith Formation:
Scott Martin
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Maintenance: Patrick Frederick

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 9 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Thomas Burger by Ethel & Vince Burger

Sunday, December 10 — Second Week of Advent

8:30 AM † Matthew Galante by Dad & Carol

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

Monday, December 11

8:00 AM † Gene Yatchyshyn by Mike, Beth & Alec Teszner

Tuesday, December 12

8:00 AM Mass at St, Sebastian

Wednesday, December 13

No Mass

Thursday, December 14

8:00 AM † Evelyn Kowell by Daughter, Paula

6:30 PM Regional Penance Service

Friday, December 15

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

Saturday, December 16 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Josph "Chip" DeFelices by Rosina Volpe

Sunday, December 17 — Third Week of Advent

8:30 AM † James & Mary Zimmaro by Ken & Linda

10:30 AM † Frank Michaels, Jr. by Daniel Zyglowicz & the Michaels Family

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

[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.

Ministry Schedule — December 16 & 17

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 p.m.	R. Kozar	J. Elias	Volunteer
8:30 a.m.	M. Melvin	A. Pastella	T. Todd
10:30 a.m.	D. Harkins	E. Yatchyshyn	C. Blatnik M. Speicher

Money Counters

Monday, December 11—Team #5— R. Croushore

Coffee & Doughnuts

Our weekly coffee and doughnuts will be on hiatus until our Feast Day on **January 7**. We look forward to meeting up again and catching up.

The Message Prepares Us

We have all heard the stories of Advent over and over again, and yet even though they were written so very long ago, the history that we hear does not only apply to past events. The pains and frustrations of people so very long ago are the same pains and frustrations we feel every day, even though the events of history are different. It is ironic how we as people never seem to change or learn from the past, we just keep doing the same things and making the same mistakes over and over again.



Advent offers to each of us an opportunity just to sit back and become aware of life as we are living it. Our days are all filled with many tasks, and most of the things we do, we do without much thought. We go through our “routines” without really thinking about what we are doing. Then there are all of those chores we just can’t seem to get started with. For many of our tasks in life it is the beginning that is most difficult, just getting started. Once we begin, energy and stamina seem to kick in and we get finished. Our gospel for this week opens with the words: “The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.” We are told about a messenger who would get things ready, but is this really the beginning? The real beginning is when the people go out and encounter John, and as the gospel unfolds the people go out and encounter Jesus. This is the beginning we all need to focus on. How do we encounter this Jesus the Son of God? Advent then becomes the many ways that we prepare for these encounters.

We do not know a lot about John but we certainly learn a lot from his message. One thing is very clear and that is His ministry was not about himself but about the “one mightier than I (who) is coming after me.” Everything that John did, pointed to the coming of Jesus. He proclaimed repentance, prepared for Jesus and died, this was the pattern of his life. It should also be the pattern for our own lives: proclaiming the gospel of repentance, prepare for Christ’s many comings and to die to ourselves daily. By our Christian living we not only point to Christ, but we also make present the Christ who dwells in us. The challenge of gospel living is the beginning – getting started. During this second week of Advent we are called upon to reflect over our lives. What have we learned from the past, how have we grown because of it? How have we dealt with our mistakes, faults and weaknesses? Do we follow the wisdom of scripture and treat people with compassion and mercy pointing them to Christ? This is what the season is all about, getting ready for our many encounters with Jesus.

The baptism of repentance proclaimed by John is just the beginning; repentance leads to baptism “with the Holy Spirit” through which we are empowered for mission, and the mission calls us to participate with Christ in bringing about “new heavens and a new earth.” Through our own baptism we participate in the life and ministry of Jesus. The way that we live our lives does make a difference. By the goodness of our lives we announce that Christ has come and brought us salvation.

Readings for the week of December 10, 2023

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/ Mk 1:1-8

Mon.: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26

Tues.: 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

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

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

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19

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

Stewardship

Children & Family Services Appeal Collection

As you are aware, every year the second collection at all Christmas Masses has been for those **people living within our own diocese who are less fortunate than we.** This collection is titled the “Children and Family Services Appeal.” On the coming Christmas Feast, which reminds us of the gift of God's own Son, Jesus Christ given to each of us without question of our merit or eligibility, We ask you to support the “Children and Family Services Appeal” and make your contribution toward changing the future of an individual, a family or a child through the good work of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg.

Angel Tree

If you took a tag from the Angel Tree this year, we would like to have your gift back by this weekend (**December 9-10**). Remember to put your tag on the package so that we know who to deliver it to. Thank you for making Christmas brighter for some children in the community.

Weekly Collection Dec. 4

Votive Candles:	192
Utility & Energy:	324
Accent:	60
Advent:	220
Christmas Flowers:	161
Christmas:	261
Imm. Conception:	124
St. Lucy:	40
Children & Adult Collection:	8,189
Online Collection:	1,426
End of Year:	2,245
Total Collection:	\$13,242
Children & Family	35
Total Collection:	\$13,277

Weekly Collection Nov. 26

Votive Candles:	259
Utility & Energy:	0
Accent:	101
Advent:	900
Children & Adult Collection:	3,584
Online Collection:	862
Total Collection:	\$5,706



Get in the Spirit

I just want to remind you all that we will be having breakfast with Santa this week! The breakfast will be served from **9:30 a.m. until Noon.** Children will be free and adults will cost \$5.00. There will be a photo opportunity for the children with Santa. I hope that you will be able to bring your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews to this event.



Lessons and Carols

This ecumenical event features the **voices of the Belle Vernon Area Churches** sponsored by the Belle Vernon Area Ministerium and presented at Saint Sebastian Church **this Sunday at 6:30 pm.** The Service is composed of nine Lessons (readings) from Scripture, followed by the singing of Advent Hymns or Christmas Carols after each Lesson. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend this festive service. A free will offering will be taken at the close of the program to benefit the local food banks. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall.



Country Christmas on Broad...

On **December 17** beginning at **2:00 pm** we will begin our Country Christmas on Broad in Belle Vernon. We will start off with a parade then move to the back of the Church for many Holiday Festivities and crafts. **The event will run until 5:00 pm.** There will be food, fun and many activities! I do hope you will be able to stop by to help you get in the Christmas Spirit!

Faith

Christmas Penance Services

This Advent, this season of waiting, is a time of reflection and a time to prepare our hearts for the Light of the World. This week, and next, take advantage of the Penance Services offered. There will be no reconciliation until after Christmas.

Penance Services for this week:

December 12: St. Edwards, Herminie (6:00)
December 14: Epiphany (6:00)
December 16: St. Anne's Rostraver (Noon)



Sacrament of Confirmation

Parents and children of the 2024 Confirmation class will have a meeting with Scott Martin today, December 10, at St. Sebastian Church following the 11 a.m. Mass. Confirmation is scheduled for April 20, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Choir for Midnight Mass

We welcome any choir members (both old and new) to sing together for Midnight Mass. There will be one rehearsal on **Wednesday, December 20 at 7 p.m.** in the church.

For any questions, please contact Dan Godla at 412-737-7332. Please join us! All are welcome!



Little Books

Like the Little Black Books for Lent, we have **Little Blue Books for Advent.** We are in the middle of Advent, but you may still like to use the books to help prepare you for the Season. They are available in the back of the church and the office.

Questions of the Week

First Reading: The prophet Isaiah offers comfort and hope to the Israelites who were captive in Babylon in proclaiming that the glory of the Lord is returning to Israel.

Do you have family or friends who could use words of encouragement from you?

Second Reading: Peter speaks of being at peace while we wait for the promise of new heavens and a new earth when Christ returns.

What gives you peace of mind these days?

Gospel: Fulfilling the prophecies of Isaiah, John the Baptist proclaimed the arrival of Jesus, “one mightier than I... (who) will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Where do you sense the Holy Spirit present in your life?

Calendars

Every year we are privileged to hand out calendars that have been donated by local businesses. It is because of their goodness and generosity that these calendars are made available to our parishioners. I would like to thank: **JANOSIK'S PHARMACY, DALFONSO – BILLICK FUNERAL HOME, FRANKS SERVICE GARAGE and THE ROBERT A. BILLICK FUNERAL HOME** for once again making this possible.



Enjoy Books



St. Sebastian Regional School is selling Enjoy books. They are \$30 and can be obtained at SSRCS Office, 815 Broad Ave., Belle Vernon. If you have any questions, call 724-929-5143.