

**December 17, 2023**



Today's readings

**3rd 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](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 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

### Monday, December 18

8:00 AM † Carl Jurkewicz by Wife & Family

### Tuesday, December 19

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

### Wednesday, December 20

No Mass

### Thursday, December 21

8:00 AM † Mary Sowko by Family

### Friday, December 22

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

### Saturday, December 23 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Charles Sungala by Wife, Children & Grandchildren

### Sunday, December 24 — Fourth Week of Advent

8:30 AM † Andrew Varganin by Nika

10:30 AM † Karen Susick by John & Sue Easley

4:00 PM Parish Family—**Christmas Eve**

### 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://youtube.com/EpiphanyofOurLordCatholicChurch)

[Facebook.com/Epiphany-of-Our-Lord](https://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 23 & 24

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 p.m.	D. Harkins	A. Punturiero	Volunteer
8:30 a.m.	S. Stein	L. DeFelices	L. Assenat
10:30 a.m.	M. Sacco	T. Mazzei	M. Guiliford

### Money Counters

Monday, December 18—Team #6— M. Smith

## 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.

## Gaudete...Rejoice!

This week we celebrate the Third Sunday of the Advent Season which is traditionally referred to as *Gaudete* or “let us rejoice” Sunday. Our readings speak to us of life as it was meant to be lived, rejoicing! In the first reading the prophet Zephaniah is speaking to a liberated people who were living with many freedoms. After years of being persecuted and enslaved, the people had many things to rejoice about. He told the people that God has forgiven them and their future is one of bright promise and peace. Zephaniah indicated that the “Divine presence” is in their midst, reminding that people that there was no room for pride and arrogance.



St. Paul also speaks of such joy that can be found in the peace of Christ. The kind of joy that he speaks of can lead us to be unselfish, to overcome anxiety and to live with a peace that only God can give. He speaks of a peace that can bring “well-being” and be “life giving.” It is no wonder that in the midst of this season of preparation that we stop and rejoice in the Lord’s peace.

This week we are all called to live lives of peace and justice. The crowds of people asked John “what should we do?” We need to ask ourselves that same question. What should we do to bring about that peace and sense of rejoicing that our liturgy speaks of today? If we listen to what we are being reminded of today, we are told that God changes not only our minds but also our hearts. If we find the love of God, no matter what is going on around us, we can rejoice. If we have that deep faith and trust in God we can rejoice and we are not afraid in life.

Our faith calls us to be in relationship with one another. It calls us to break out of ourselves and live for others. During these weeks before Christmas it is easy for us to see the needs of others. During this season, people do tend to be very generous. But, once Christmas is over, we fall back into our routines of living and become blind to the wants and needs of others. If we are to take seriously the justice that Jesus calls us to live, we need to make an effort to become more aware of others. John the Baptist is telling us basically to live our lives being honest with who we are and what we have. Listen to the needs of others and help whenever we are able. There are so many ways that we can live out of Jesus’ justice. If we rejoice in what we have and who we are in the way that we are asked to, we can’t help but be people of peace; it is easy.

This week look at what you have in life and be open to sharing whatever you have with the less fortunate. Do not exploit people. Do not threaten people you are supposed to protect. Work to overcome the multiple injustices of our society. Do not abuse the position of authority which you might have. Advent is a time of conversion, as good a time as any to reflect on our lives and the ways in which we translate our faith into action. People need to know us by our actions and not by our pious assertions. When we know God, we will rejoice!

### Ministry Schedule — December 24 & 25

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 p.m.	P. Fantauzzi G. Pesi	Volunteer	L. Assenat
12:00 a.m.	F. Petrosky M. Melvin	J. Todd	T. Todd
10:00 a.m.	W. Vlasic K. Miller	J. Brown	G. Yatchyshyn S. Yarchyshyn

## Stewardship

### Angel Tree

I want to once again thank all of our parishioners for their generosity with the giving tree project this year. It is an amazing site to see all of those gifts on the altar! Trust me when I say that you have made Christmas for many little children a lot brighter, and for that we all need to be grateful.

### 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.

## 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. BIL-LICK FUNERAL HOME** for once again making this possible.

## Country Christmas

### Country Christmas on Broad...

This afternoon, **December 17**, St. Sebastian Church will sponsor Christmas on Broad between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Stop by and get into the Christmas spirit.

## New Year's Eve

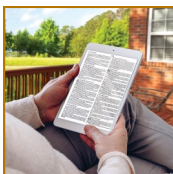


As hard as it is to believe, we are looking at the New Year in a couple of weeks. This year, we are planning a simple gathering in the church hall on New Year's Eve, **Sunday, December 31**. This is strictly BYOB and anything else you may want to nosh on or share with others. We will begin at 8 p.m. and end at midnight; come and leave as you like. If you think you would be interested in attending, please let us know. There is a **sign up sheet in the back of the church**.

## Daily Readings

### Readings for the week of December 17

**Sunday:** Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28  
**Monday:** Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25  
**Tuesday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25  
**Wednesday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38  
**Thursday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45  
**Friday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56  
**Saturday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66  
**Next Sunday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a)/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38



## 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 18: St. John, Perryopolis, 6:00 p.m.  
December 19: Seven Dolors, Youkon, 6:00 p.m.  
December 21: St. Sebastian, Belle Vernon, 6:00 p.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!



### Oplatki

Packets of Oplatki are available in the back of the church. It is \$3.00 for the packet of 4. If you have not done this tradition, you might want to think about starting it.

Typically on Christmas Eve, before the meal, the eldest member of the family will break a piece off of the Oplatek and pass that to someone with a blessing (on the packet) until all members at the table have received a piece. The purpose of this is to express ones unconditional love and forgiveness to each member of the family.

### Blessing of the Infant Jesus



The Third Sunday in Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday. Over 30 years ago in Rome, a new tradition emerged and the Third Sunday also became known as Baminelli Sunday. This is the Sunday the Holy Father invites people to

bring the Baby Jesus (Baminelli) from the family Nativity scene to his Mass in Rome for a blessing. To do the simple blessing at home the following prayer can be prayed over the Baminelli;

God, our Father you so loved humankind that you sent us your only Son Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, to save us and lead us back to you.

We pray that, with your blessing, these images of Jesus, soon to come among us, may be a sign of your presence and love in our homes.

Good Father, give your Blessing to us too, to our parents, grandparents, to our families and to our friends.

Open our hearts, so that we may be able to receive Jesus in joy, always do what he asks and see him in all those who are in need of our love. We ask your blessing on our Baminelli and those who present him in the name of the Father, of the son and of the Holy Spirit.

We ask you this in the name of Jesus, your beloved Son who comes to give the world peace and who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

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