

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday:

4:00 p.m.

Sunday:

8:30 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.

Monday, & Thursday

8:00 a.m.

Tuesday, Wed., Friday

NO MASS

December 19, 2021

THE Epiphany OF OUR Lord

ROMAN
CATHOLIC
CHURCH



A PENNSYLVANIA CHARITABLE TRUST
A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG

44 PENNSYLVANIA BLVD. • MONESSEN, PA 15062

www.eolparish.com · facebook.com/Epiphany-of-Our-Lord

www.youtube.com/EpiphanyofOurLordCatholicChurch

FOURTH SUNDAY

of Advent



RECONCILIATION

Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. or you may call the office to make an appointment.

BAPTISM

We baptize during all Masses. Parents are required to attend a Pre-Baptism session prior to the Baptism. Please call the office for more information.

MARRIAGE

Arrangements must be made at least six months in advance.

MINISTRY OF THE SICK

If you know of anyone who is sick and cannot get to Mass, and they wish to receive the Eucharist, please call the office so arrangements can be made.

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Michael Crookston
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BULLETIN DEADLINE

Any article for the bulletin must be in the office by Monday noon.

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 18—Vigil

4:00 PM † James Weldon by Judy & Gary Maim

Sunday, December 19—4th Sunday in Advent

8:30 AM † Nello Tineri by Harhai Family

10:30 AM † Charles Sungala by Wife, Children & Grandchildren

Monday, December 20

8:00 AM † James & Mary Zimmaro by Ken & Linda

Tuesday, December 21

No Mass

Wednesday, December 22

No Mass

Thursday, December 23

8:00 AM † Mary Sowko by Rose Sowko

Friday, December 24 — Christmas Eve

4:00 PM Parish Family

Saturday, December 25 — Christmas Day

12:00 AM Parish Family

10:00 AM Parish Family

Sunday, December 26 — Feast of Holy Family

8:30 AM † Ronald Danko by Rock & Shirley Russell

10:30 AM † Anthony Manderino by Tara & Sons

Parish Office:

44 PENNSYLVANIA BLVD

MONESSEN, PA 15062

Parish Office: 724-684-7661

Church Hall: 724-684-5512

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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 — Dec. 24 & 25

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 p.m.	S. Surdyn	J. Todd	T. Todd
12:00 a.m.	F. Petrosky M. Sacco	E. Yathyshyn	J. Sacco
10:00 a.m.	W. Vlasic	T. Mazzei	M. Guiliford

Ministry Schedule — Dec. 26

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
8:30 a.m.	D. Harkins	L. DeFelices	D. DeFelices
10:30 a.m.	R. Kozar A. Blatnik	J. Elias	C. Blatnik

Money Counters

Monday, December 20—Team #4—J. Petritis

Blessed are you among women...

On this Fourth and final Sunday of Advent we are not given a lot of time to digest the wonderful symbolism that our Liturgy brings to us. It is a strong temptation to jump right into Christmas, however we need to be careful and learn from our readings for they once again present a promise and the guarantee of its fulfillment.



We start of the Liturgy of the Word listening to the wisdom of the Prophet Micah. He is an interesting character and lived during the time of the prophet Isaiah. He has often been referred to as the prophet of the ordinary person because he speaks in the language and uses symbols of the common people. Micah condemns empty, external rituals for they do not bring interior piety. He sees the external things being offered in place of the things that God really wants from us: kindness and justice toward a humanity suffering in its longing for peace. He was a man who suffered with the poor rather than simply defending their rights. He focused on divine justice and the rights of the poor.

It is with this background that he speaks of a poor insignificant town which will give birth to the “ruler of Israel.” Bethlehem will present the world with a true shepherd and his greatness will reach all the ends of the earth. Micah presents the messiah as a true icon of peace. It is fitting that we hear from him on this last Sunday of Advent.

St. Luke in the Gospel speaks of the promise that Micah was giving to the people. He focuses on two women who both have significant parts to play in God’s plan of salvation. The meeting of Mary and Elizabeth has significant symbolism for us in the church today. Many look at Mary’s journey to Elizabeth as being difficult and compare that with the journey of the Church through the centuries. Luke’s gospel for this final Sunday before the Nativity has the women in center stage. As in the resurrection stories, it is the women who announce the good news. It is the women who bring Christ to us. It is the women who embody the mercy of God. Mary and Elizabeth are the “women of the redemption.” It is their encouragement of one another that allows them to go forward with the confidence and joy they will need when their sons, John the Baptist and Jesus, are placed in the hands of executioners.

There is great beauty in the scene of these two women blessing one another and recognizing how God has come into each of their lives. These women were Spirit-filled and announced the saving presence of God. This becomes our own task in life, to announce God’s saving presence to all. Through our goodness and generosity we too must bring the presence of a loving and merciful God to our world. We are given many opportunities to recreate that visitation. Through our goodness and care, we can use this holiday season as an opportunity to bring God’s message of peace and tidings of great joy to those in our life. What a wonderful opportunity, as we read the story of the visitation, to recall the women in our own lives who have blessed us and revealed the presence of a loving and merciful Lord whose birth we celebrate at Christmas

Due to the bulletin deadline, last week’s collection will be listed next week.



With Deepest Sympathy — Condolences are extended to the families of Mary Swantner and ALICE SELCAN. May God grant them eternal rest, and comfort to their families. We commend their souls to rest in the peace of Christ.



A Message of Christmas Peace!

As a parish family we celebrate the Birth of Jesus, and we have a much to be grateful for. As we look back over the past year, there have been many blessings of God's love that we have been given. We have shared the joy of our blessings with many people around the world and for that we should be grateful. As a community of God's people we have prayed together which brings God's presence to each one of us.

As you celebrate this Christmas with those who are in your life, be aware of the gifts that count the most for they are worth more than any material possession or wealth. When we are able to open our hearts to one another and share who we are from within, we share what the joy of Christmas is all about. If you are able, even for a little minute, try to escape all of the trappings that this season puts upon us and open yourself to the silence of what the real gift is all about. As we become more aware of what Christ can be for us, we are better prepared to be that presence to those in our world. As individuals as well as a parish family, we ought to look and appreciate who God made us to be and what our God has blessed us with. Only then can the joy of this season bring the real message of Peace on Earth and Good Will to all. My prayer for you is that this season may touch your hearts with the gentle presence of Christ's love, and that you may find the resolve to do the same to others.

A Blessed Christmas to you all!

Daily Readings

Readings for the week of Dec. 19, 2021

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Monday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56

Thursday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66

Friday: *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79

Saturday, Christmas: *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 *Night:* Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 *Day:* Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve:

4:00 p.m.

Christmas:

12:00 a.m. (Midnight)

10:00 a.m.

Advent: A Time to Prepare...

During this advent season we focus on the Mercy of God we share through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If you have not yet made your reconciliation, you have one more opportunity on Monday, December 20. The priests of the region will gather at 6:30 to begin hearing confessions.

December 20: St. Sebastian in Belle Vernon

During Advent there will be **no confessions on Tuesdays** in Monessen. I hope that you will be able to share in the Mercy of God during this season of waiting.

Christmas Wafers

We still have a few packets of Christmas Wafers available. They are in the entrance of the Church. The cost per package is \$3.00. The breaking of these wafers is an ancient ritual that unites the past with the present. If you haven't participated in this ritual, this might be the year to try something new.



Breakfast with Santa



Today is our breakfast with Santa. Breakfast will be provided by the Holy Name Society. They will serve pancakes and sausage, juice and coffee for **\$5.00 (adults), children are free.** There will be treats for all the children. I hope that you will be able to stop by and visit with Santa between **9 and**

11 a.m.! There will be plenty of opportunity for photos. In addition to the men providing breakfast, the **Epiphany Ladies** will have a craft table and **FCSLA** is distributing treat bags to the children. Hope to see you there. You're never too old for a Santa picture.

Stewardship

Children & Family Appeal

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 & 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.

