

December 26, 2021



**The Holy Family**



## LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

### 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

### Monday, December 27

8:00 AM † John B. Harhai by Family

### Tuesday, December 28

8:00 AM † Campana & Garofalo Families by Children

### Wednesday, December 29

No Mass

### Thursday, December 30

8:00 AM † Rita Cocca by Jim & Carol Sepesky

### Friday, December 31

4:00 PM † John & Marion Povrzenich by Terry & Marie Shipley

### Saturday, January 1

No Mass

### Sunday, January 2

8:30 AM † Frank & Consetta Manderino & Family by Melvin Nickolich

10:30 AM † Angela Lancas by 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

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 — Dec. 31

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 p.m.	R. Kozar	J. Dudas	S. Yatchysyhn

### Ministry Schedule — January 2

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
8:30 a.m.	K. Miller	A. Pastella	T. Todd
10:30 a.m.	M. Melvin	K. Byron	E. Yatchyshyn

### Money Counters

**Monday, December 27**—Team #5—R. Croushore

### Catholic Charities offers counseling

Catholic Charities provides virtual and in person counseling. Call Catholic Charities at 724-837-1840 or email counseling@dioceseofgreensburg.org.

## To Be a Holy Family...

Our celebration today focuses on the family of Jesus and in turn we reflect of our own family. Our readings present us with two children who somehow end up in the temple. The first reading is taken from the book of Sirach which was held in high regard by the early church. It is clear that from the book of Sirach we can see that the well being of the family is the foundation of the well being of all other social institutions.



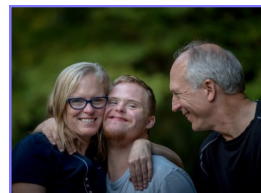
Throughout the Old Testament we are given the notion that God's laws call for obedience and when we keep the law, God rewards us. This idea has permeated its way into early Christian moral teaching. However, the ideas put forth by Sirach need to be adapted to our culture and our society. The question of reverence and respect for one's parents takes on a different dimension. When this passage was written, there were no nursing homes or assisted care living. What Sirach told his original listeners as well as what he is saying to us is that what we need to do is see that compassionate care and dignity is given to our elderly parents.

St. Paul is speaking to a community that was struggling to remain faithful in the midst of much controversy. He is reminding the Christians that they needed to strengthen their community and make a favorable impression on their pagan neighbors. One way of doing this was to adhere to certain household codes that were standard rules of behavior. This was a patriarchal society and wives were to be protected by their husbands. There was a clear structure for family living. If these structures were followed then a strong community would be the end product.

We recognize the Holy Family; namely Jesus, Mary and Joseph. But we need to be careful how we define holy. To be holy in the scriptures means to have a special relationship with God, a closeness that takes priority over all other aspects of life. It is in this light that we see the family of Jesus as being Holy. We need to be careful not to look at this "Holy Family" and start to make comparisons to our own families. It is clear that the family of Jesus was not perfect and they had their problems as well.

When we talk about "family values" it is easy for us to fall back on what we refer to as the "good old days." We long for the days when families were something different. We look back with fondness and think that what was, should be today. However this can be and in fact is a false representation. If we are able to be perfectly honest, the good old days weren't so good. They had their problems and issues as well as we do. The bottom line is that we all have dysfunctional families. There is no perfect family; we all are perfect in our own unique ways.

Family units have changed dramatically since Sirach and Paul. We need to look at the families that we have and be grateful for them. We must not try to shape our families into a "textbook" notion of what family should be. What matters most and certainly makes us holy is the way we treat one another. In *Marriage and Family* magazine they offer what every family needs to be holy:



"humility, genuine sorrow for past hurts, ability to admit mistakes, hunger for forgiveness, lips that can say I'm sorry." These are the things that make a family holy!

**With Deepest Sympathy** — Condolences are extended to the family ANNE "BUNNY" TRILLI. May God grant her eternal rest, and comfort to her family. We commend their souls to rest in the peace of Christ.

## Stewardship

### Weekly Collection Dec. 13

Votive Candles:	128
Utility & Energy:	400
Accent:	155
Advent:	125
Imm. Conception:	610
Christmas:	995
Christmas Flowers:	1,115
St. Lucy:	257
Solemnity of Mary:	63
End of Year Gifts:	650
Children & Adult Collection:	8,531
Online Collection:	917
<b>Total Collection:</b>	<b>\$13,946</b>
Children & Family	98
<b>Total Collection:</b>	<b>\$14,044</b>

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

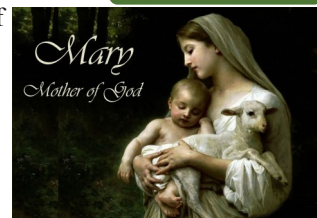
## Coffee & Doughnuts



Coffee & Doughnuts will resume on January 9. If you would like to help out with this, please call the office.

## Faith

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, is Saturday, January 1st, a holy day of obligation. There will be one Mass here on Friday, December 31 at 4:00 p.m. On Saturday, there will be one Mass at St. Sebastian at 9:00 a.m.



## The "After-glow" of Christmas...

As I look over the past year, we have all been through some pretty rough waters. The pandemic has certainly touched all of our lives in more ways that we wanted. However, in spite of all the unfortunate happenings of this past year we have many blessings that we should not overlook. The season of Christmas certainly reminds us of the blessings that life puts before us. It is hard to believe that we have celebrated Christmas yet another time. It seems that the birth of Jesus comes upon us so quickly and then it is gone. However, we are still in the great season of Christmas, at least until the 6<sup>th</sup> of January.

In looking back over the past few weeks, I am overwhelmed by the goodness and generosity of the people from our parish. I cannot thank you all enough for the many cards and gifts that you have given to me.

- I also am edified by the way people so generously give of their time during this busy season when they certainly have enough of their own work to do. I would like to thank all of our Liturgical Ministers for the extra time they put into serving with the Liturgies.
- I think that our church looks beautiful, and this certainly did not happen on its own. We are blessed with many gifted and talented people who came and helped decorate. I want you all to know how grateful I am for sharing your time and energy.
- Although the whole reason for all this work is to celebrate the gift of Christ among us, I would just like to thank you our parishioners for your support and generosity. We are blessed here at The Epiphany of Our Lord. Be grateful for these blessings and we will carry them with us as we begin a new year in the Peace of Christ!

*Fr. Mike*

## Groups

**Holy Name** Sunday is next **Sunday, January 9**. Corporate Communion will be at the 8:30 a.m. Mass. The regular monthly meeting will be held in the church hall following Mass.

Holy Name members are reminded that their dues for 2022 should be paid at this time. Please place your dues (Blue Envelope) in the regular church collection.

## Breakfast with Santa



Last week we celebrated yet another Breakfast with Santa. There were many people who helped to make this a successful celebration. I am grateful to the **FCSLA** who provided not only their time but also many gifts for the children. Our **Epiphany Ladies** helped to make a festive celebration with their help, presence and treats, and our **Holy**

**Name Men** certainly outdid themselves with the breakfast they served.

All in all it was a nice celebration for our children and their families. We are always grateful to **Santa and Mrs. Claus** who make the celebration memorable.

## Daily Readings

### Readings for the week of Dec. 26, 2021

**Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/ Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

**Monday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

**Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

**Friday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18

**Saturday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

**Next Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



## Sacraments:

**Reconciliation:** Tuesday at 5:00 p.m.

**Baptism, Marriage, Ministry of the Sick,** please call the office.

## Get the App

In spite of the pleasant weather we have been enjoying, winter is around the corner. Meeting and Mass updates are sent through the app. To be sure you stay up-to-date download the app to your smartphone or tablet. Text ParishApp 1 to 555888 (Apple) / ParishApp 2 to 555888 (Android). Or if you prefer — Search for Parish App in the Apple Store or Google Play. Once you download the app, you will need to select Epiphany of Our Lord as your parish.

## Around the Diocese

### Virtual Bible studies to start in January

Two new virtual Bible studies will be offered over the Zoom platform beginning Jan. 4. "The Acts of the Apostles" will be held Tuesdays from 6:30-8 p.m. and "Samuel 1 and 2" will be held Fridays from 9:30-10:45 a.m. There is no cost, but registration and a workbook are required. The studies are offered through Journeys Online Spiritual Ministry. For more information or to register, contact Molli Vassar at 724-366-9552 or [molli.vassar@gmail.com](mailto:molli.vassar@gmail.com).