



December 3, 2023



Today's readings

**1st 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
smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Bulletin Sec.: Tara Manderino
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Maintenance: Patrick Frederick

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 2 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Patsy & Rose Greco by Joe & Sandy Greco

Sunday, December 3 — First Week of Advent

8:30 AM † Joseph & Alice Walker by Daughter, Dolores Harhai & Family

10:30 AM † Barbara Felak by Vern Janosik & Family

Monday, December 4

8:00 AM † Deceased Members of the Knights of Columbus by Members

Tuesday, December 5

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

Wednesday, December 6

No Mass

Thursday, December 7

8:00 AM † Armand DeRose by Rosina Volpe

6:30 PM † Shirley Marino by Mr & Mrs Joe Gallo

Friday, December 8 — Immaculate Conception

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

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

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 9 & 10

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 p.m.	G. Pesi	Volunteer	G. Yatchyshyn S. Yatchyshyn
8:30 a.m.	K. Miller	J. Brown	V. Watkins
10:30 a.m.	M. Sacco	K. Imbrescia	L. Assenat N. Speicher

Money Counters

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

A Season of Waiting



More than anything, Advent is a celebration of a hope that God's promises will be fulfilled, that God can be born again, over and over in our hearts and in our world. Of all the seasons that make up our Church year, this is probably the busiest. With the celebration of Christmas so near, there are many things that we need to accomplish and there are many distractions that allow us to become sidetracked. We would be wise people to follow the old adage that tells us "a watched pot never boils." Everything about this time or year seems to turn Advent into a "watched pot." So much around us is propelling us toward Christmas with alarming speed, for example, a regular countdown of the number of shopping days until Christmas, snarled traffic and no parking places, Salvation Army bell ringers, Christmas music everywhere. In the midst of all this, what is the "watched pot"?

What exactly are we supposed to be watching for? How are our energies used up during this short period of time? When we allow life to swallow us up with all of the trappings of what is going on around us, we can certainly feel lost and out of control. Life seems to get tougher and tougher the more we try to do. In the midst of all this business we start to feel lost and out of control. We lose sight of our purpose and we start to look at things to blame. The people during the time Isaiah wrote this first reading were feeling absolutely out of control. They had lost sight of so many important things in life and were looking to blame God for their troubles. More than anything else, they felt no hope. The prophet reminds them that they need to get in touch with what is hopeful in their lives. In so doing they will realize what is important and what might not be so important and in the process regain control over their lives.

Our second reading reminds us that we cannot always live our lives only in the present, without an awareness or consideration that there is a future. As people, we often tend to get so caught up with what is going on around us that we do just that. Advent reminds us that there is a future and that future is full of God's promises. No matter how overwhelmed we might feel at the moment, it won't last if we keep a healthy perspective on what we are doing and why, in other words be aware of the "watched pot." We need to be aware of the fact that we live now and be responsible because there is a future worth waiting for.

How you spend this season of waiting is entirely up to you. However, it would behoove you to slow down and keep an eye on that "watched pot." If we can keep a healthy perspective on how we are living and what we make so important in life, we will find that we are at peace. It is never too late to wake up the reality what it means to be ready and watchful. We must be alert that our watching does not miss that for which we truly wait. We await the fullness of Christ's coming in a world still darkened by sinfulness.

Weekly Collection Nov. 19

Votive Candles:	228
Utility & Energy:	82
Accent:	37
Advent:	75
Christmas Flowers:	5
Christmas:	20
Children & Adult Collection:	4,313
Online Collection:	1,511
Total Collection:	\$6,271
CRS/DPRF:	471
Total Collection:	\$6,742

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

With Deepest Sympathy — Condolences are extended to the family of ALBERT 'COOKIE' FOGLIA. May God grant him eternal rest, and comfort to his family. We commend his soul to rest in the peace of Christ.

Stewardship

Angel Tree



If you took a tag from the Angel Tree this year, we would like to have your gift back by next weekend (**December 9-10**). Remember to put your tag on the package so that we know who to deliver it to. If you have any questions or considerations, you may call the office.

'Tis the Season...

Join us for Breakfast with Santa at the Epiphany of Our Lord Church Hall on **Sunday, December 10** between 9:30 a.m. and Noon. Adults are \$5.00; children eat free. Bring your children, grandchildren, or neighborhood children. The event is sponsored by The Epiphany Ladies and the Holy Name Society. Santa treats are provided by FCSLA.



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 on Sunday, **December 10**, 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.

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Country Christmas in Belle Vernon

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!

Sausage Sale

HOMEMADE SAUSAGE SALE

The **Knights of Columbus** will hold a sausage sale on December 13 & 14. All orders must be in by **Saturday, December 2**. Put in your order now to make sure you get it! The **sausage will be sold at \$5.50 /lb. Minimum order is 2 lb. per item. All orders MUST be made on the order form.**

LINK	LOOSE	
_____ lbs.	_____ lbs.	Sweet Sausage
_____ lbs.	_____ lbs.	Hot Sausage
_____ lbs.	_____ lbs.	Hot Hot Sausage

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Orders may be placed by filling out the order form above, placing it in an envelope marked "Sausage Order" and depositing it in the collection basket. To call in your order, or for info, contact Kenny at 724-929-3464. Please make checks payable to the **Knights of Columbus**

Faith

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

On Friday, December 8, we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Mass will be at 8:00 a.m. at St. Sebastian on Friday, December 8, and at **6:30 p.m. at Epiphany on Thursday, December 7.**

To become the mother of the Saviour, Mary "was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role." The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as "full of grace". In fact, in order for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly borne by God's grace (CCC 490)



Presentation of Gifts

The procession with the gifts symbolizes the assembly's participation in the Eucharist and in the social mission of the Church. It is a giving of self in readiness for making the true offering, which the Lord invites his people to make with him. If you have a Mass offered for a loved one, or a special occasion, and you would like to present the gifts, please let the greeters or the ushers know when you enter the church.

Christmas Penance Services

With this week being the first week of Advent, we will have Penance Services over the next weeks. Below are listed the time and places for this seasons services:

- December 11: Holy Family West Newton, 6:30
- December 12: St. Edwards, Herminie, 6:00 pm
- December 13: St. Anne's, Rostraver, 6:30 pm
- December 14: Epiphany, Monessen, 6:30 pm
- December 18: St. John's Perryopolis, 6:00 pm
- December 19: Seven Dolors, Youkon, 6:00 pm
- December 21: St. Sebastian, Belle Vernon, 6:30 pm



Sacrament of Confirmation

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

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.



Christmas Party



Come join the **Knights of Columbus** in celebrating Christmas. The party will be held on **December 9th** at the Knight's hall on Grand Blvd., Monessen. Catering by Pasta Too, entertainment by Ken Santoro. All are welcome to celebrate, Cost \$30.00 per person, Knight's widows are free.

Let's enjoy the season. Call Bob Kuzynski for info or reservations: 724-689-4298.

Groups

Holy Name Sunday is next Sunday, December 10. There will be Corporate Communion at the 8:30 a.m. Mass. There will be no meeting in December.