



December 11, 2022



**Third Week
of 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
tmanderino@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Maintenance: Patrick Frederick

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 10 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Vizza & Nicksich Families by Rosalie Nicksich

Sunday, December 11 — 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM † Roy Stinogle by Janet Salay

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

Monday, December 12

8:00 AM † Matthew Galante by Dad & Carol

Tuesday, December 13

No Mass

Wednesday, December 14

No Mass

Thursday, December 15

8:00 AM † Evelyn Winn by Family

Friday, December 16

No Mass

Saturday, December 17—Vigil

4:00 PM † Mom & Dad by Cipely, Zelinsky & Hopkins Families

Sunday, December 18 — 4th Sunday of Advent

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

10:30 AM Ethel Peshok: 100th Birthday 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 — December 17 & 18

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 p.m.	D. Harkins	Volunteer	Volunteer
8:30 a.m.	M. Melvin	L. deFelices	D. DeFelices
10:30 a.m.	W. Vlasic	E. Yatchyshyn	S. Yatchshyn

Money Counters

Monday, December 12—Team #1—B. Geis

With Joy We Await!

This third Sunday of Advent is referred to as Gaudete Sunday meaning “rejoice.” Our readings for today lead us to rejoice in the life that we have and more importantly the promise that we have been given. We start off once again with Isaiah telling us that the future is something that we all can rejoice in. He speaks about how much we are subject to the conditions of weather, and living in a very arid country, this is no surprise. Therefore the provision of water in the wilderness is a common and joyous expression of praise in the books of the prophets. He speaks of the parched land of the desert in full bloom all because of God’s love for us. The coming of water to dry places, no less than the ransom of captives, promises renewed prospects for human survival in a dangerous world.



James in his letter reminds us that just as we cannot predict the weather, we must be patient and wait. He does not liken the “coming of the Lord” to the rains, but rather compares the patience of believers to that of the farmer who must wait for the rains. The rains will not arrive any sooner simply because the farmer wishes it; they will come when they come. So too will it be with the coming of Christ. We all must be patient and simply wait. It is in the gospel for this week that we are given the information about how we are to wait and what we are to do.

We find that John is in prison as Matthew presents our gospel for this week. He is wondering if Jesus is truly the “one” who is to come. The question this leaves us is: how can John the Baptist, Christ’s forerunner and the man Jesus himself greeted as the greatest ever born from a woman, be so unsure now? In a way it is good for us to see that John had to adapt to Jesus’ views, and not Jesus to John’s. Jesus always comes and works in the most unexpected ways.

John’s question must become our own: Is Jesus the One for us, or are we really looking for another? In trying to answer the question of Jesus’ identity we cannot rely only on the authority of others found in creeds or catechisms. Our answer must also come from our own personal experience of Jesus and the good fruit of his life and ministry. Advent is a time when we can open our eyes to see in new ways the presence of Jesus – in good actions, in the holiness of others, in forgiveness and healing. Yes, we see Jesus when we see the fruits of his presence. Living the Gospel, means that we are charged to take up Jesus’ ministry, we cannot ask people to take our word for it; our actions or non-actions speak for us. Either we take up Jesus’ ministry or we don’t. Either people see Jesus in us, or they don’t. We grow into witnessing to Jesus’ life and mission when we ourselves seek to answer the question, “Are you the one...?” by personally encountering Christ in prayer and opening ourselves to recognizing him in our own and others’ good works. We cannot know someone whom we have never encountered.

Nietzsche once said that one of the major obstacles to believing in Christ is that Christians do not reflect the joy of his Resurrection. This Sunday offers us a wonderful opportunity to ask ourselves whether we live our faith joyfully or not. It is sometimes difficult today to be optimistic about the future of our Christian communities, but who said it was ever easy? Jesus performs miracles, and still people doubt. Are we dreaming of a salvation completely out of this world or are we ready to adjust our own dreams to those of God as embodied in the life and ministry of Jesus?

Oplatky

The Oplatky or **Christmas Wafers** are available in the back of the church. The wafers are packaged with 4 individual wafers. The cost for a packet is \$4.00. You may also pick them up at the office during the week.

Website Update

If you are having trouble accessing the church website online, be aware that we have updated the site. You may have to clear your browser cache to be able to access the page.

Appleicious orders can be picked up in the church hall on Sunday, Dec. 11 after Masses.

Stewardship

Christmas Giving Tree



I would like to thank everyone who took the time to make this Christmas a little brighter for the children in the Head Start program. I am grateful to all of you for your generosity! Every year it seems that we get more and more gifts to share. Please know that you certainly have

helped make many children's Christmas a lot nicer. If you did not get to bring in your gifts this weekend, you can bring them to the office on Monday.

I think that as a parish family we can feel good about the ways that we reach out into our community and share our goodness.

Weekly Collection Dec. 5

Votive Candles:	163
Utility & Energy:	239
Accent:	49
Advent Folder:	253
Christmas Flowers:	461
Christmas:	600
Immaculate Conception:	206
Solemnity of Mary:	6
St. Lucy:	35
Children & Adult	
Collection:	6,622
Online Collection:	1,374
Total Collection:	\$10,008
Poverty Relief:	30
Eastern European:	35
Family & Children:	49
Total Collection:	\$10,122

Coffee & Doughnuts

Coffee and Doughnuts will be on hiatus from December 18 through January 1. We will resume on Sunday, January 8, 2023!



Faith

Regional Advent Penance Service

This week our Penance services begin on Monday at Yukon at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday at Rostraver Twp. at 6:30 p.m. On Thursday, we will have services at Perryopolis at 6:30 p.m. and on Friday we will be in Herminie at 6:00 p.m. Our last service will be on Saturday, December 17, in Belle Vernon at Noon.

I do hope that many of you will be able to come and share in the Sacrament of Christ's loving forgiveness.

Throughout December the Saturday confessions will be canceled in lieu of the services. I hope that you mark these dates down and make an effort to come and bring your family to this life-giving sacrament.



Christmas on Broad



Get in the Christmas spirit at **Christmas on Broad** at St. Sebastiaan Church, Broad Ave., Belle Vernon, on **Sunday, December 11 between 4 and 6 p.m.** A Live nativity, cart rides, hot cocoa, carolers and vendors will spread the joy of the season.



Around the Diocese

Healing prayers at Seven Dolors Parish

Hem of His Garment will lead an evening of healing prayers **Friday, Dec. 16, at 6:30 p.m.** at Seven Dolors Parish, Yukon. The evening will include Eucharistic exposition, corporate prayer for healing and individual prayer ministry. If you would like to be a part of a prayer team, join us Thursday, Dec. 15 from 5:30-9 p.m. for training. RSVP for training only. For information, contact Kim Hutchins at hutchins@hssop.org, 412-817-5465 or hemofthisgarment.org.

Video Christmas Concert

Experience a rockin' way to witness the true love of Christmas through a classic Christmas concert performance by B.E. Taylor. Originally performed at Heinz Hall, Pittsburgh, the concert will be replayed in life-size theatre quality sound and video. St. Paul Church, Greensburg, Dec. 18 from 7 -9 p.m.. Doors open at 6 p.m. There is no charge.

Save the Date!

We might heading to winter but we're looking ahead to spring! We will have a purse bash on Sunday, April 30. There will only be 200 tickets sold. Tickets will be \$30.00. More information will follow.



December 18

Next Sunday we will give our children the opportunity to have Breakfast with Santa! Santa will be here at Epiphany from 10:00 am until Noon.

This is a wonderful opportunity for you and your kids and grandchildren to spend time with Santa. Pass the word around to friends and neighbors that Santa will be making a stop here next week!

Church Calendars



This week you may pick up your **calendar for 2023!** They will be available for the next few weeks. Every year, we are given these calendars through the generosity of a few businesses. I want to express our thanks to: **Janosik's**

Pharmacy, Franks Service Garage, Inc, and Dalfonso – Billick and Robert A. Billick Funeral Homes for their generous support, not only this year but in the years past. Be sure to patronize these businesses for their generosity and if you see them, say **Thank You!**