



December 18, 2022



**Fourth 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



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 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

Monday, December 19

8:00 AM † John B. Harhai by Dolores & Family

Tuesday, December 20

No Mass

Wednesday, December 21

No Mass

Thursday, December 22

8:00 AM † Mary Sowko by Family

Friday, December 23

No Mass

Saturday, December 24 — Vigil

4:00 PM Parish Family

Sunday, December 25—Christmas Day

12:00 AM Parish Family

10:00 AM Parish 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](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 24 & 25

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 p.m.	M. Melvin D. harkins	J. Todd	B. Rizzuto T. Todd
12:00 a.m.	M. Sacco J. Sacco	A. Punturiero	S. Punturiero V. Watkins
10:00 a.m.	G. Pesi K. Miller	J. Elias	L. Assenat

Money Counters

Monday, December 19—Team #2— W. Anders

The Simple Things in Life...

Here we are already celebrating the fourth and final Sunday of the Advent Season. We must be careful not to turn our liturgies into “Christmas Masses” this week. Even though we are all ready for the excitement of Christmas only a few days away, the atmosphere of this week’s readings is still one of promise and hope and not fulfillment.



This week our gospel centers around the parents of Jesus and more specifically on Joseph. Many people in our world today will travel great distances and go to great lengths seeking miraculous happenings. But the surprise of this season is that God’s greatest miracle happens close to home: the simple consent of a man and a woman to do God’s will. The gospel is an annunciation to Joseph that Mary would conceive and bear a Son by the Holy Spirit. Yet, by God’s choice, the collaboration of an ordinary man and an ordinary woman was necessary. Joseph and Mary heard God’s word announcing salvation and they obeyed it. Through such divine-human collaboration Jesus became “Emmanuel...God is with us.” Here is the Good News of the gospel: by such a simple act as Joseph’s obeying God’s messenger and taking “his wife into his home,” God is with us in the incarnated Son.

There is even more Good News, if God chose such simple people as Joseph and Mary to incarnate the divine Son, is it not reasonable to think that Son’s continued presence in the world is brought about by us? God’s choice to cooperate with humanity in bringing about salvation is not limited to Mary and Joseph, but continues in our own hearing of God’s word and obedience to God’s will. Thus, the Incarnation is not limited to a single event we celebrate annually in December, but happens every day in the ordinary circumstances of our own lives. The twist in this gospel is that God chose us to bring salvation to us who need it.

On these final days of Advent, why not spend some time thinking about how God uses the simple things in life to help us learn the greatest lessons. Ironically, it is usually the simple things in life that we tend to overlook the most. We take so much for granted the little things in life that be are barely even aware of them. Throughout the entire scriptures, God makes use of the common parts of life to reveal the greatest of glories. The more we are able to recognize the goodness and glory of God in the simple things in life, the more God’s love will be a part of our world.

Make an effort today to reflect on who Christ is for us and what believing in him means to our life. Remember to become aware of the little things in your life for that is where you will see the greatest gifts!

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 upload the page.

Catholic Charities offers counseling

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

With Deepest Sympathy — Condolences are extended to the families of ANGELO RONALD PRO, GEORGE FRANCIS SWADE AND RENE COMOGLIO MONCINI. May God grant them eternal rest, and comfort to their families. We commend their souls to rest in the peace of Christ.

Christmas Giving Tree



Once again this year we had a successful project with the giving tree. It is heartwarming to see such generosity pour from the people of our parish. The gifts that you bought will certainly make a brighter Christmas for some needy children in our community. We all need to celebrate this gift and be grateful

that we are able to do it. Know that the hearts of many little boys and girls will be greatly blessed because of your kind and gracious generosity.

Children and Family Services

The annual Catholic Charities' Children and Family Services Appeal will be the second collection at all Christmas Masses Dec. 24 and 25. This collection helps people in our diocese who are less fortunate. Your support can change the future of an individual, family or child through the good works of Catholic Charities.

Coffee & Doughnuts



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

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

Breakfast with Santa

This week we served Breakfast with Santa! I would like to thank **the Epiphany Ladies** for their work in making this event possible. I am grateful to the **Holy Name Society** who did a wonderful job of providing Breakfast for all, and I would like to thank the **FCSLA** for their presence and the snacks they provided. **Mary Dzurik** and **Rita Lucas** did a wonderful job in decorating. All in all we are blessed to have such wonderful people provide opportunities such as this one for all of us to share in. I am grateful to all of you and **Thank You!**

Daily Readings

Readings for the week of December 18

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Tuesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

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

Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

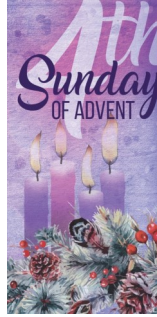
Saturday: *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Next Sunday, 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/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14



Something to Think About



During this Fourth Week of Advent, take a few moments to reflect on today's readings. In the First Reading, Isaiah prophecies to King Ahaz of Judah the coming birth of *Emmanuel*, meaning "with us is God." **When do you feel God's presence in your life?**

In the Second Reading, Written about twenty years after the death and resurrection of Jesus, Paul's opening words in his Letter to the Romans provides one of the earliest testimonies to the divinity of Jesus Christ. And now as believers, Paul tells us we are "called to be holy."

How has this season of Advent help you develop holiness?

The Gospel recounts the Birth of Jesus, St. Matthew focuses on how Joseph came to terms with this miraculous event. **Can you name a time when you had to discern how God is working in your life?**

St. Joseph the Steward

St. Joseph is one of the greatest examples of stewardship we have in the Gospels. Here is a man who understands care and reverence for the property of God, a man chosen to be steward over the very life and breath of God's Son and Spouse.

Joseph was mindful. He recognized what belonged to God. When he understood that Mary was to be the mother of God, he was not jealous or bitter. He did not presume to claim ownership over her.

Joseph was prayerful. He accepted the opportunity to be in relationship with God, even if it was in a radical and unexpected way. How many of us would trust a crazy dream we have where an angel tells us our fiancée is carrying the Son of God? Well, those of us who are already profoundly connected to God through prayer. Joseph was open to receiving God, and so he was open to the truth in a way many of us would not have been.

Joseph was gracious. Even before he had full understanding of the situation, he was unwilling to expose Mary to shame. He did not give himself over to feelings of betrayal.

Joseph was committed. He persevered. The Lord had no shortage of strange and even dangerous-sounding tasks for Joseph, but he submitted to each one.

Joseph was accountable. When he awoke from his dream, "he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took his wife into his home."

Joseph was a man entrusted with many gifts, and he gave of them wisely. Let us pray that we have the grace to follow in his example.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



Time of Giving

More than any other time of the year, Christmas is a time of giving. Here are a few **Christmas Gift Suggestions:**

- To your enemy, forgiveness.
- To an opponent, tolerance.
- To a friend, your heart.
- To a customer, service.
- To all, charity.
- To every child, a good example.
- To yourself, respect.

— Oren Arnold