



December 4, 2022



**Second 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 3 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Julius Ostetrico by Knights of Columbus

Sunday, December 4 — 2nd Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM † Damien Luti by Angelo Galante

10:30 AM † Jozwiak & Lenio Families by Pat

Monday, December 5

8:00 AM † Mary Ann Germinario by Andrea Leach

Tuesday, December 6

No Mass

Wednesday, December 7

No Mass

Thursday, December 8 — Immaculate Conception *

8:00 AM † Mary Louise Assenat by Janet Daniele

Friday, December 9

No Mass

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

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 10 & 11

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 p.m.	G. Pesi	J. Elias	M. Smith G. Smith
8:30 a.m.	S. Stein	J. Todd	T. Todd
10:30 a.m.	A. Blatnik	K. imbrescia	C. Blatnik

Money Counters

Monday, December 5 — Team #6 — M. Smith

The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand

Ironically during this season of Advent when we are supposed to slow down and think about the Hope that Our Lord brings to our lives, we are literally bombarded with all kinds of messages. The preparations for Christmas are so full of anxiety and frustration that this season loses everything that it is supposed to bring to our lives. John the Baptist tells us to “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” we must beware that we do not lose what this message brings to us.

Isaiah in the first reading tells us about the root of Jesse and how there will be a time of peace between all of God’s creation. These were certainly welcome words given to a people whose world seemed to be collapsing around them. The fear of war and oppression from all sides was a reality and the people were living through years of crisis not only for their own kingdom but also for the many small kingdoms throughout the Middle East. These words from this great prophet were meant to bring hope, he wanted to see his people live in peace and harmony. Unifying people was not only the concern of Isaiah, for St. Paul also reminds us that we all need to strive for unity. His letter implores all of us to live in harmony with one another. We are told to imitate Christ in all that we do. St. Paul is telling us that discipleship is always a matter of imitation. We are all called to live as Christ; doing nothing more or less than what he did. For Paul, the sign of the successful imitation of Christ, as in our reading today is when we live in harmony with all people.

The gospel of Matthew presents us with the prophet who is given the privilege of announcing the Kingdom of God, and John is presented as anything but common. If he would be walking through our streets today, what kind of attention would we give him? Here was a man who left society and chose to live in the wilderness all by himself. He lived on locusts and wild honey and wore camel hair for his clothing. Would we really pay a man like that any attention at all? And yet, in spite of his appearance, John the Baptist was famous in his time. In fact the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus wrote about him and Jesus near the turn of the second century and it appears that John was better known of the two in Palestine during the first century.

Prophets have always been disturbing people, and yet they were people with great tenderness and deep love for their people. They were not afraid to speak out the truth whenever necessary. The role of the prophet is to “prepare the way of the Lord.” Throughout the ages the prophets have kept the faith and hope of their people alive, no matter what. John is certainly one of the great prophets; he was the forerunner of Christ. Shall his voice remain lost in the wilderness, or shall we listen and go get to prepare actively for the coming of Christ?

This is the time of the year when many opportunities to think of others arise. The red kettle and bell ringing remind us that others are less fortunate than we and need our help. At the same time we cannot forget to be mindful of those with whom we live, work, and play, especially at a time when busyness might cause us to be tired and short-tempered and when taking care of our own things might cause us to be shortsighted that we do not see the need of those close to us.

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.

*Anticipated Mass for the Holy Day will be at St. Sebastian Church, on Wednesday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m.



With Deepest Sympathy — Condolences are extended to the families of NANCY PENICH, MARY LOUISE PERSICO AND CECILIA CHORNAK. May God grant them eternal rest, and comfort to their families. We commend their souls to rest in the peace of Christ.

Stewardship

Christmas Giving Tree



Remember for those who took ornaments from the Angel Tree to return your gifts next week. When you bring them back, be sure to attach the tag with the number on it so we can get them delivered to the right person.

Weekly Collection Nov. 21

Votive Candles:	98
Utility & Energy:	57
Accent:	41
Imm. Conception:	7
Advent Folder:	67
Christmas Flowers:	61
Christmas:	160
Children & Adult Collection:	4,998
Online Collection:	1,245
Total Collection:	\$6,734
Poverty Relief:	213
Retired Religious:	24
Children & Family:	5
Total Collection:	\$6,976



Weekly Collection Nov. 27

Votive Candles:	200
Utility & Energy:	37
Accent:	159
Advent Folder:	790
Children & Adult Collection:	3,910
Online Collection:	723
Total Collection:	\$5,819
Poverty Relief:	135
Food Bank:	132
Retired Religious:	50
Total Collection:	\$6,136

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



Breakfast with Santa



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!

Around the Diocese

Christmas on Broad

Get in the Christmas spirit at **Christmas on Broad** at St. Sebastian 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.

Bishop to celebrate Lessons and Carols at cathedral

Join Bishop Larry J. Kulick for the annual celebration of **Lessons and Carols on Friday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg**, featuring the Diocesan Choir, Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Choir and Diocesan Schools Chorus.

Faith

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

On December 8, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Mass will be here on **Thursday, December 8 at 8:00 a.m.** Anticipated Mass will be at St. Sebastian, Belle Vernon, at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 7. *"...The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin. (CCC 490-491)*



Regional Advent Penance Service



Advent is the time to prepare for the greatest gift God has given us, the forgiving love we find through his Son. In celebrating this forgiveness we will offer the sacrament of Reconciliation throughout our region. The dates and times for our Penance Services are listed below:

December 6	Epiphany (6:30 p.m.)
December 7	West Newton (6:30 p.m.)
December 12	Yukon (6:00 p.m.)
December 13	Rostraver (6:30 p.m.)
December 15	Perryopolis (6:30 p.m.)
December 16	Herminie (6:00 p.m.)
December 17	Belle Vernon (Saturday Afternoon 12:00)

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.

Groups

Holy Name Sunday

is next Sunday, December 11. Corporate Communion will be at the 8:30 a.m. Mass. The regular monthly meeting will follow in the church hall.

Symbols of Christmas

At this time of the year, we see many symbols of Christmas without thinking about them much. "The Accent On-Air: The Symbols of Christmas," airs on **Sunday, Dec. 4, at 11:30 a.m.** In this episode, the staff of *The Catholic Accent*, and **Father Mike**, explore the popular symbols of Christmas, including **St. Nicholas**, one of the most recognizable figures in the world. Bishop Larry J. Kulick talks about his visit to the Vatican, his audience with Pope Francis and the importance of the **gift of the Eucharist**. Plus, learn the meaning behind the Christmas decorations in your home; the wreath, Christmas tree and luminary lights. Bells will be ringing this season as churches across the Diocese join together to ring church bells as a reminder to many to celebrate the birth of our Savior. And Bishop Kulick is back in the kitchen with a traditional Slovak Christmas Eve soup. "The Accent On-Air" is always on at TheAccentOnline.org.

Apples can be picked up in the church hall next Sunday after Masses.

Apples will remain fresh in the refrigerator for 3 weeks.