



February 11, 2024



Today's readings

**6th Sunday
in Ordinary
Time**

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, February 10 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Yolanda Reday and Joan Garland by Bernie Reday and Marsha Myers

Sunday, February 11 — 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM † James & Mary Zimmaro by Ken & Linda
10:30 AM † Rita Cocca by Vern Janosik & Family

Monday, February 12

8:00 AM † Helen & ValGene Veschio by Jeff Francia

Tuesday, February 13

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

Wednesday, February 14—Ash Wednesday

8:00 AM † Carmen Beneccio by Dr & Mrs Martin Dudas
12:00 N Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, February 15

8:00 AM † Steve Slavonia by Mary Lou Lee

Friday, February 16

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian
12:00 N Stations of the Cross
6:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 17 — Vigil

4:00 PM † William Bielawski by Ruth, Billy & Jeff

Sunday, February 18 — 1st Sunday of Lent

8:30 AM † Elaine & Melaine Nickolich by Melvin Nickolich
10:30 AM † Frank & Irene Vizza by Andrea Hopkins

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 — February 17 & 18

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 p.m.	P. Fantauzzi	J. Elias A. Punturiero R. Lucas	D. Harkins
8:30 a.m.	G. Pesi	L. DeFelices J. Todd A. Pastella	T. Todd
10:30 a.m.	R. Kozar	K. Imbrescia E. Yatchyshyn S. Beneccio	C. Blatnik N. Speicher

Money Counters

Monday, February 12—Team #1—B. Geis

We are called to touch the Lepers!

I don't know about you, but when I hear from the scriptures how some people of society were treated, it seems that God's presence is nowhere near. This week we hear about how people suffering with leprosy were shunned by the people of society and they were absolutely cut off from all that was important to them. This included not only their family and friends but also the freedom to worship God. They were considered unclean and that was how they were to live their lives. Our readings reveal a lot about the fears of the society from which it sprang. Scripture is supposed to lead us to conversion of heart and mind, not used as an excuse to exclude people in life.



It is very easy for us to look back and find fault with how people were treated in the past, but if we are to be led to conversion ourselves, we need to look at life today and see just how we treat one another. The question we need to ask ourselves today is: who are the lepers of our society, and just how do we "mark" them? It is good for us to look at what Jesus did in the gospel today. Imagine the sense of alienation and isolation that drives this leper to kneel before Jesus and beg to be made clean. Jesus responds to this outpouring of emotion with deep feelings of his own and then does the unimaginable: he reaches out and touches the leper. This touch must have required great compassion on the part of Jesus, so much so that it took precedence over the law and Jesus' own risk of ritual impurity. The leper is healed and then admonished to show himself to the priest in fulfillment of the law, in order to regain ritual purity and be restored to the worship of the community. It is through the example of both Jesus and the leper that we learn about what it means to be a true disciple. Through the actions of Jesus we learn to reach out to the outcasts in life and like the leper, we proclaim the good news of what Jesus has done.

There are few laws of legal purity in our society but still many taboos and fears surround health and cleanliness. Even in our own church many people will not receive communion from the cup for fear of germs, even though health officials say the chances of catching a disease from a shared cup are far less than taking public transportation. The same can be seen with the greeting of peace. Many simply will not shake hands with their neighbor for fear of contamination, so we cannot be too harsh on the people of Israel.

As well as making the leper well again, Jesus confronts an attitude. He defies the prejudices of society. Our society is still full of narrowness and prejudice; there is still a lot of religious elitism about who can and cannot be saved, who does and does not belong in a particular church. We are disfigured in many ways as a society. We refuse to confront the evils of poverty and lack of medical care for millions of people, capital punishment, abortion on demand, international disputes and enormous gaps between the rich and poor. These are the "sores" that infect our society. Like Jesus we are to extend that gentle touch of healing and peace. The healing presence of Jesus can touch and mend the torn fabric of our society if only we take his example and not be afraid to touch in life.

Weekly Collection Feb. 4

Votive Candles:	175
Utility & Energy:	244
Accent:	3
Lenten Folder:	25
Ash Wednesday:	70
Children & Adult Collection:	\$9,333
Online Collection:	1,646
Total Collection:	\$11,496
Eastern Europe:	573
Total Collection:	\$12,069

With Deepest Sympathy — Condolences are extended to the family of ANN BUFFA MAISANO. May God grant her eternal rest, and comfort to her family. We commend her soul to rest in the peace of Christ.

Stewardship

During the Lenten season we focus on our Stewardship and how we share with people who are less fortunate than we are. We will once again this Lent participate with the **Heifer International in providing families with ways to sustain themselves and build their communities.** It is the goal of Heifer International to achieve a goal of helping 4 million families to secure a living income. Over the past years, we have helped in making this goal come to fruition.

Each week you will be able to purchase animals that will be given to families to use in building a secure life for themselves and the communities they live in. It will be our goal for Lent to purchase an entire ARK of animals. If you wish to make a contribution, simply put it in an envelope and mark it Heifer.

Catholic Home Missions Appeal

Next weekend, **February 17 & 18**, we will take up the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. We are asked to provide material support and spiritual aid to Dioceses in the United States and its territories that are unable to provide pastoral services without assistance from sources other than their own. We may be surprised to learn or to be reminded that **40% of the Dioceses in the United States are considered to be "home mission dioceses,"** that is, almost half of our Dioceses cannot support themselves without outside assistance. These Dioceses share several characteristics – small Catholic populations dispersed over a large geographical territory, economic challenges due to unemployment and migration, and diminishing populations due to members of the population leaving for urban areas. It is true that at various times our parishioners and other residents of the Diocese have struggled economically and financially, but we are still able to provide many basic services to the population of the Diocese of Greensburg. We can show our solidarity with our fellow Catholics in the United States through a generous sharing of our resources and prayers.

Diocesan Lenten Appeal

By now you should have all received your information about this year's DLA. As we begin this season of repentance, we are all called to make changes in our lives that will make us more faithful to our Baptismal Commitments. **Stewardship or sharing our Time, Talent and Treasure is what being a faithful disciple is about.** As a parish we have a responsibility not only to our own needs, but to help support the Diocese as well. This year our Diocesan goal is set at \$44,354 and **our parish goal is \$40,000 over that.**

This year with the money we raise over and above the diocesan goal, **we are going to need some work to the roof in the church. This is a major undertaking so I** ask that you please respond to the campaign as generously as you can.

However what matters most in this campaign is our participation, for this speaks volumes of us as a parish. I am hoping to get a much better participation this year. We will be sharing more information in the coming weeks about this year's DLA, but please know how grateful I am to all of you for what you are able to do for our church.

Purse Bash

Get your ticket now for the Purse Bash. Tickets are limited and go fast but they will be **on sale this weekend after all Masses on February 10 & 11.** Tickets are \$35. The event will be on Sunday, April 28 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information contact Kathy Imbrescia at 412-996-0775.



Lent Begins this week

With Ash Wednesday this week we begin the Season of Lent. There are many ways that we can use these weeks to grow closer to God's goodness and become more aware of just how blessed we are. **Going to daily Mass** is a wonderful way of making the Eucharist a center of your life.

- We celebrate Ash Wednesday with Mass at 8:00 a.m. and a service at Noon
- Mass is celebrated Monday and Thursday here and Tuesday and Friday at St. Sebastian
- Our fish fry will start on Ash Wednesday, and continue throughout the Fridays of Lent from 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.
- On Fridays of Lent we will pray the stations together at Noon and at 6:00 p.m.

I hope that you will be able to participate in some of our activities. **Remember that Ash Wednesday is a day of Fast and Abstinence and that all of the Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence.**

Mardi Gras

It's Mardi Gras time! The official close of Carnival Season and the last chance for all those wonderful baked goods before Lent begins is on "Fat Tuesday." We will celebrate on **Tuesday, February 13 from 6 p.m.—8 p.m.** Since Mardi Gras is all about the "junk food", we are asking that you bring some to share.

We can also use pop and water if you are able to donate some. Whatever we don't use for the Mardi Gras we will make good use of during the Fish Fry. Remember to bring your old palm branches! We will burn them. The ashes from the palms will be used the next day.

Bake Sale

Bake Sale reminder

With the Fish Fry comes the bake sale! We will rotate through the alphabet so everyone will have a chance to bring in their scrumptious baked goods. For Ash Wednesday, February 14, the first group will be **A—H**; for Friday, the second group will be those whose last name begins with **I—P**. Thank you!

Groups

Epiphany Ladies will meet this Sunday, February 11, following the 10:30 a.m. Mass. The meeting and social will be held in the church hall. All women of the parish are welcome.

CDA, Court Monessen #776 will meet on Sunday, February 18, in the church hall following the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Our Annual Pro-Life Baby Shower will be held. Members and parishioners are invited to participate in this Pro-Life Program by donating items for **new born babies**. All Catholic Women are welcome to attend the meeting and learn about the mission and purpose of the Organization. Call Regent Debbie Genemore for additional information at 724-708-8335.

Ministry Schedule — February 14

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
8:00 a.m.	D. Harkins	A. Punturiero	Volunteer
12:00 Noon	R. Kozar	S. Campus	N/A