



February 18, 2024



Today's readings

**1st Sunday
Of Lent**

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 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

Monday, February 19

8:00 AM † Julia Francowic by Ted Harhai

Tuesday, February 20

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

Wednesday, February 21

No Mass

Thursday, February 22

8:00 AM † Marie Sickles by Sister, Betty Nash

Friday, February 23—stations

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

Noon Stations of the Cross

6:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 24 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Angeline Forlini by Children & Grandchildren

Sunday, February 25 — 2nd Sunday of Lent

8:30 AM † Doris Kukler by Husband, Alex & Family

10:30 AM † Robert A. Mascetta by Phil & Art Trozzi

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 24 & 25

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 p.m.	S. Surdyn	L. Henry K. Byron J. Brown	L. Assenat
8:30 a.m.	K. Miller	L. DeFelices S. Campus M. Dzurik	G. Pesi
10:30 a.m.	W. Vlasic	E. Yatchyshyn T. Mazzei P. Fantauzzi	S. Yatchyshyn G Yatchyshyn

Money Counters

Monday, February 19—Team #4—J. Petritis

Our Journey Through Lent

As we embark on another Lenten Journey our thoughts are turned inward to see just how we can become more aware of God's loving presence. Today our liturgy gives us much food for thought.



If we were to take a poll and ask people what their favorite liturgical season is, I would venture to guess that Lent would not be at the top of many lists. However, even those who are somewhat lukewarm in their faith are compelled to do something during Lent.

Through the story of Noah and the flood we can see how humanity was brought low by forgetting about God's covenant and turning to sin. The story of the flood is certainly meant to show us God's hatred of sin and the corruption which humans have brought upon the goodness of creation. This story is one of hope because the Ark represents the preservation and re-birth of human life after the chaos of sin. The church has used the waters of the flood as symbols of baptism, re-birth, new beginnings. So now at the start of Lent we pause to consider how we have not lived up to our own baptismal vocation as the people of God. At Baptism we were brought into God's people, and in that rite we were cleansed of sin by God's grace. Lent gives the opportunity for renewal and for the restoration of our baptismal promises and purity in preparation for Easter.

St. Peter speaks to us about the eminent danger of falling from grace through other influences in life. In his day there was a belief that spirits could influence humans to do evil and sin. He reminds us that as Noah was saved through the water, so Christians are saved through baptism. Jesus in the gospel starts this season with the proclamation that: "The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe." This sets the tone for our lent. Lent is about conversion, repenting and turning away from evil. Repentance, which is a total turning of oneself away from evil and toward God, leads to believing, which is a way of embracing God and living in God's kingdom. Repenting and believing are partners for anyone seriously living the gospel. The challenge, of course is to make repenting and believing more than words on a page, they must become a way of life for us.

Liturgically, the Lenten season is oriented to the celebration of baptism and the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil. It is tempting for us to make Lenten practices the whole task of Lent. I can remember from my childhood that Lent was the time when we had to give up candy, and that was a sacrifice. However, I am not sure that I understood why we did it. Many people still give things up during lent without thinking at all about what it is for.

The bottom line is that we need to focus on the temptations that we face in life. While we become more aware of all those temptations we need to understand that temptation is not a sin. No matter how fiery the passion gets, temptation and testing are not sins. Temptation is an impulse toward getting or gaining something that will give us pleasure. Do temptations come from God? From the devil? From inside of us? Outside of us? There are no clear answers. We know only that we must make choices. Lent is about choices: to give up in order to gain all. We will never escape temptations in life but if we learn to trust in the power that Baptism has brought to our lives, maybe we can make better decisions when confronted with temptation.

Bake Sale Reminder

Those whose last name begins with **Q—Z**, please remember we need your help to provide goods for the Fish Fry bake sale on Friday. Thank you!

With Deepest Sympathy — Condolences are extended to the family of PATRICIA A. PETTKO AND WILLIAM E. BERGSTEDT. May God grant them eternal rest, and comfort to their families. We commend their souls to rest in the peace of Christ.

Diocesan Lenten Appeal

If you have not yet received your information on this year's DLA, you should be getting in in the next few days. Once again as we enter more fully into the season of Lent we are reminded not only of the need for repentance, but also of our **Baptismal Commitments to be faithful stewards.**

Stewardship or sharing our Time, Talent and Treasure is what being a faithful disciple is about. As with many other important parts of life, we often take our faith and our church for granted. We just kind of **expect the church to be there when we need it. This cannot happen without your continued support and dedication. First of all, attendance is the absolute number one priority for all of us.** It is important not only for ourselves but for the good of one another that we come and be a part of the community. Secondly, we need to assure the vitality and longevity of the Church through our support financially. The DLA affords the opportunity to do this every year. We have a responsibility not only to our own needs, but to help support the Diocese as well.

Our Diocesan goal for this year's program is set at \$44,354. **Our parish goal is set at \$40,000 above that because we need to have work done to the roof on the Church, which will become a real issue if we do not address it now.**

However **what matters most in this campaign is our participation,** for this speaks volumes of us as a parish. 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

Heifer Project

Just as a reminder, if you wish to make a contribution to purchasing an "ARK" through Heifer International, you can put it in an envelope and drop it in the collection basket. The ARK consists of a collection of animals that will provide **an opportunity for people around the world to support not only their families but also help build their communities.** To understand what your donations can do, each week I will talk about the animals and how they are used.

The gift of a Heifer: Your gift of a heifer means better nutrition and provides milk which is good for you and delicious! But **some children never get milk to drink.** They don't grow as they should, and they are often sick. A heifer can give as much as four or more gallons of milk a day – enough for a family to drink, make into yogurt or

cheese and sell. **As an added bonus, each family passes on offspring of their gift animal to another family,** and the whole community benefits.

The gift of a goat: Did you know that **more people rely on goats for milk than cows?** They're a great alternative for families who live in rocky mountainous areas, or own little land. Goats often give about four quarts of milk a day – just the right amount if you don't own a refrigerator. Goat manure makes a fantastic fertilizer for increasing vegetable crop yields, and goats give birth to two kids a year,



Remember that we have a delicious Fish Fry every Friday from 11:00 am until 6:00 pm!

A Journey of Our Faith... what we believe and why...

Starting on Monday evening, February 19, at 6:30 p.m. and for the next four Mondays in Lent we will be having a discussion on what it is we believe as Roman Catholics and why...as well as **why is our Church so important in life.**

I am hoping that it an insightful opportunity to learn a little bit more about our faith. Please know that everyone is invited! We will not be using a book; there is no cost. We will begin in the hall at **6:30 p.m. on Monday evening.** I hope to see you there!



Lenten Stations of the Cross

The Stations are an ancient practice of faith and devotion for the Lenten Season. We will pray the Stations at **Noon and at 6:00 p.m. on Fridays during Lent.**

Inspiration for the Week

In the desert, Jesus endured forty days of hardship and temptation. But he did not endure it alone: "the angels ministered to him," the Gospel tells us. Remember that you do not face Lent alone. God is beside you in your journey to the desert.

Groups

CDA, Court Monessen #776 will meet this Sunday, February 18, in the church hall following the 10:30 a.m. Mass. about the mission and purpose of the Organization. Call Regent Debbie Genemore for additional information at 724-708-8335.

Weekly Collection Feb. 11

Votive Candles:	288
Utility & Energy:	35
Accent:	0
Lenten Folder:	25
Ash Wednesday:	70
Easter:	13
Children & Adult Collection:	\$3,987
Online Collection:	654
Total Collection:	\$5,073
Eastern Europe:	55
Home Mission:	5
Total Collection:	\$5,132

Sausage Sale

HOMEMADE SAUSAGE SALE

The **Holy Name Society** will hold a sausage sale on March 26 & 27. All orders must be in by **Saturday, March 9.** 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

Holy Name Society