



February 12, 2023



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



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 11 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Steve Beck by John & Nira Persico

Sunday, February 12 — 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM † William Bielawski by Ruth, Billy & Jeff

10:30 AM † Frank Vizza by Toni Bucci

Monday, February 13

8:00 AM † James & Mary Zimmaro by Ken & Linda

Tuesday, February 14

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

Wednesday, February 15

No Mass

Thursday, February 16

8:00 AM † Louise Dudas by John and Family

Friday, February 17

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

Saturday, February 18 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Robert Kappy by Wife, Mary

Sunday, February 19 — 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

10:30 AM † Angeline Forlini by Children & Grandchildren

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 — Fe. 18 & Feb. 19

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 p.m.	G. Pesi	J. Elias	B. Rizzuto
8:30 a.m.	M. Melvin	J. Brown	V. Watkins
10:30 a.m.	W. Vlasic	K. Imbrescia	S. Yatchyshyn G. Yatchyshyn

Money Counters

Monday, February 13—Team #4— J. Petritis

Pierogi Schedule

We have one more Pierogi-making scheduled! We will begin on Sunday, February 12 after the 8:30 Mass and on Monday, February 13, we will begin at 8 a.m. **In the case of inclement weather**, we will follow the Monessen School schedule for delays and cancellations. If school is canceled, so is pierogi making for that day.

We all have the freedom to choose...

Have you ever felt like you didn't have much choice leaving you feeling like a victim? I think that most of us can certainly relate to that. Today our readings are about God's laws and our choices in life. Sometimes it is almost frightening how much power we actually have with our freedom to make choices.



The first reading is taken from the book of Sirach which belongs to the collection of writings known as Wisdom literature. The section we hear today is part of a larger discussion of human responsibility addressed to people who blamed God for the conduct of the wicked. In a religious environment in which God was seen as the ultimate author of every action, some people tended to hold God responsible for evil and suffering, thereby prohibiting us to have faith in God's goodness. Today we hear Sirach responding to those claims by reminding us of personal responsibility, emphasizing that those who choose to do so can keep the commandments. He insists that each of us account for our own choices, reminding us that God's commandments offer the path of true life. By making it clear that the responsibility for our own actions lies solely on us, God cannot be blamed for the injustice and evil in our world. Ultimately the God of such tremendous wisdom gives us the free will to make the choice for life in all the situations we face.

Continuing with the Psalm we are reminded that God's laws are full of wonders, and when followed with all of our hearts and all of our being, life will work out as it should. It is when we use our freedom of choice to go against God's laws that life becomes complicated. Jesus explains at great length in today's gospel how God's laws need to be followed.

The part of the Gospel that we call the Sermon on the Mount is a collection of Jesus' teaching that Matthew puts together in one carefully constructed discourse. In this section, Jesus expresses a great respect for his Jewish tradition as he teaches his disciples on what it means for them to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

The passage for today starts off by telling us how Jesus did not come to abolish the law, rather he came to fulfill or complete it. He then proceeds to take several of the commandments, one after the other, and interpret them in a whole new light. Jesus becomes the new giver of the Law like Moses, by handing down a new series of commandments far more challenging than the first. What Jesus does is take a teaching or law that is well known and takes it to its root meaning. For example, he demonstrates that the sin of murder has its roots in anger and disrespect of another. He broadens the original law to address anger. Anger, including demeaning others by calling them names such as *raqa*, Aramaic for imbecile or idiot, can cause harm to others. This can be just as damaging as murder itself.

Another law or commandment that Jesus speaks of, deals with adultery, which was understood in the day of Jesus as an offense against the husband, whose property had been abused by another. This teaching in Jewish tradition leads directly to the presence of divorce. Under traditional law, only the man could initiate a divorce, and, according to some interpretations, he was free to do so for the slightest of provocations. Jesus re-defines this law and promotes the dignity of women, saying they cannot simply be handed off as property.

Jesus calls each of us to seek reconciliation with anyone who is angry with us, otherwise our sacrifice is hollow. We all can control our own behavior and do not have to be dictated to by somebody else. By exercising our freedom of choice we are able to embrace the loving law God puts before us; or we can choose another path and deal with the consequences.

Stewardship

Brown Bag Sunday

Remember to bring your baby item next weekend! Requested items are for diapers and clothing in sizes for newborn to 12 months, educational toys and books. We will be collecting items the weekend of **February 18 & 19**. Thank you for helping to shower these mothers and their babies with love.

Heifer Project

This year, we will be using the Heifer International as our Lenten sacrificial offering. Heifer International is a non-profit, humanitarian organization dedicated to ending world hunger and caring for the earth by providing livestock, trees, training and other resources to help struggling families around the globe.

Animals from Heifer provide milk, eggs, wool, draft power and other benefits that can mean improved nutrition, higher income, education for children, health care and improved housing – literally, a new way of life.

As we have done in the past years, our target is to purchase a whole Ark of animals that will **help promote self-reliance** to as many as 30 families around the world

We have six weeks to fill up our Ark. You may put your contributions in an envelope marked for Heifer. This is a wonderful way to help your children learn about good Stewardship and in the process it is helping so many needy people. Each week I will let you know which animals boarded the Ark!

Weekly Collection Jan. 29

Votive Candles:	220
Utility & Energy:	228
Accent:	0
Ash Wednesday:	55
Lenten Folder:	15
Children & Adult Collection:	6,171
Online Collection:	1,633
Total Collection:	\$8,322
Home missions:	10
Eastern Europe:	356
Total Collection:	\$8,688

Groups

CDA MONESSEN COURT #776

The Court will meet on **Sunday, February 19**, in the Church Hall following the 10:30 a.m. Mass. The Rosary will be prayed before Mass at 10:00 a.m. in the Church. The February meeting will feature our Annual Pro Life Baby Shower. All are invited to participate in the Rosary and 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.

Mardi Gras

Plans are coming along very well for our Mardi Gras Celebration for this year. Remember Mardi Gras this year will be celebrated on Tuesday February 21st beginning at 6:30 p.m. Don't forget to gather up all of your old Palm branches from last year and bring them along. We will conclude our evening by burning those palms and using the ashes for distribution the next day. I hope that you mark your calendars and try to come and be a part of the celebration this year. We ask that you bring a desert. We can also use some pop and water. You can also BYOB!

Youth Retreat

A **Lenten Retreat**, led by the NET Ministries Team, will be held on **Sat., Feb. 25** from 9 to 4 at St. John, Perryopolis. Teens in Grades 7 – 12 are invited to attend. For more info or to register, email aslebodnik@dioceseofgreensburg.org by Feb. 19, or scan the QR code.



Faith

Lent

Following our celebration of Mardi Gras we will begin the season of Lent. This year, we will again provide you with the **“Little Black Books.”** You can pick them up on the **week-end of February 18-19**. There are reflections in this book to help you on your journey through Lent. On Ash Wednesday there will be a number of opportunities for you to receive ashes.

8:00 a.m.	Mass at Epiphany
10:00 a.m.	Service for School at St. Sebastian
12:00 Noon	Service at Epiphany
4:00 p.m.	Service at St. Sebastian
6:00 p.m.	Mass at St. Sebastian

Throughout Lent there will be Stations prayed on Fridays at 6:00 p.m.. I will rotate between Epiphany and St. Sebastian. On the weeks that I am not in either parish, someone will lead the stations. If you would like to volunteer, please let me know or call the office.

Also just as a reminder, Ash Wednesday is a day of Fast and Abstinence. The Fridays during Lent are days of Fasting, and Good Friday is a day of Fast and Abstinence.

Furthering Our Faith / Bible Study

We begin our sessions on **Monday, February 13**. There is no fee, and no book is needed, so if you haven't signed up, you can still join us. This is a great opportunity to learn more about **Why We Do What We Do** as Catholics.

Music and Liturgy

Words and music belong together. Sometimes an association between words and music is so strong that we find it difficult to say the words without singing the tune—or to hear the melody without also thinking of the words.

Try saying the words of the “Star-Spangled Banner” without the melody. If you're like most people, you're probably stumbling a bit. Now try it with the tune, Makes a big difference, right? Some texts just don't seem right without music. Have you ever tried gathering around a cake ablaze with candles and just saying the words of “Happy birthday”? Have you ever attended a football game where the crowd only recites the words of the school fight song?

Music has long played an important role in the life of the Church, especially in proclaiming, praying, and responding to the Word of God. The bishops who gathered at the Second Vatican Council recognized the intimate connection between word and music, declaring that the Church's musical tradition is of preeminent value because “as a combination of sacred music and words, it forms a necessary or integral part of the solemn liturgy” (Second Vatican Council, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, no. 112.) Copyright 2009, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

As important as music is to our Liturgy, we all need to be more attentive. If you think you would like to be a part of this aspect of the liturgy and become a cantor, please know that your talents are most welcome! Let me know or call the office.

Help Wanted

Church of St. Anne in Rostraver is looking for a **Church Custodian** for 20 hours a week. Among others, duties would include sweeping, dusting, emptying trash, and setting up the hall for functions. For details or to apply, call St. Anne Church at 724-872-3555.

Bethlehem Christian Families

Roni Salsa, representing Bethlehem Christian Families, will be here the **weekend of February 26**. He will have a variety of items for sale, all made of olive wood from the Holy Land.