



February 19, 2023



Today's readings

**7th 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 18 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Robert Kapty 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

Monday, February 20

8:00 AM † James & Lucille Lipari by Children & Grandchildren

Tuesday, February 21

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

Wednesday, February 22 — Ash Wednesday

8:00 AM † Anthony Mascetta by Joe & MaryAnn Gallo

12:00 Noon Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, February 23

8:00 AM † Dolly Gaudio by Wednesday Volunteers, St. Vincent de Paul

Friday, February 24

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

Saturday, February 25 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Carl Jurkiewicz by Wife & Family

Sunday, February 26 — 1st Sunday of Lent

8:30 AM † Cecelia Chornak by Doreen & Gary Smith

10:30 AM † Angeline Weathers by Jean Minniti

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. 25 & Feb. 26

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 p.m.	S. Surdyn	A. Punturiero	S. Punturiero
8:30 a.m.	S. Stein	A. Pastella	J. Smith B. Smith
10:30 a.m.	A. Blatnik	T. Mazzei	C. Blatnik

Money Counters

Monday, February 20—Team #5— R. Croushore

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.

...Be Holy as God is Holy...

Once again Jesus puts before us a challenge as to whether we are serious about being one of His disciples. We are told that we must pray for our enemies and all of those who might wish us harm. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus tells us: “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of God in heaven...” Jesus' words leave little wiggle room. To be children of our Father in heaven, we need to love our enemies and pray for them.



Our first reading this week comes from the book of Leviticus which is a book of laws. The Lord tells Moses to call the entire people to imitate God's own holiness. It is through God's laws that we are given a practical way of living right with God. The laws of God are not arbitrary, but rather a revelation of how to become holy as the God who revealed them is holy.

In the second reading Paul speaks to the people at Corinth. He formed that community only to have another come in and preach a different message. Paul doesn't want to get into any debate about who is right or wrong. He simply reminds the Corinthians that God dwells in their community as in the Temple of Jerusalem. When he insists that the Spirit of God dwells in them, he is talking in the plural. They are a temple, not as individuals, but as a community. Anyone who destroys the unity of the community is destroying God's very dwelling.

Jesus in the gospel gives us a message that is a difficult one to embrace. In looking at what Jesus is saying with an historical perspective these words build the foundations of an extremely creative, nonviolent opposition to evil. The three examples Jesus uses come from daily life, depicting relationships between people of unequal social, economic, and political status. The first example refers to a master striking a servant. Matthew is careful to specify that the person is struck on the right cheek: the blow was backhanded, a gesture which demeaned at least as much as it caused physical injury. The person who turns the other cheek refuses to be humiliated, indicating nonverbally that he has the same dignity as the one doing the striking.

The next example has to do with ones cloak. Here again, when a destitute person needed a loan, he might have no collateral beyond his tunic. According to Exodus, a lender must return the cloak at night because it also served as a blanket. If the person delayed too long in repaying, the lender could assemble a group to judge the debtor and gain the right to retain the cloak. The poor person had no recourse except the dramatic gesture of handing over his tunic. This is an example of how the justice of the wealthy left the poor naked.

The third example deals with the notion that Roman soldiers had the right to press a citizen into service, but only for one well-marked mile. If they went further, they were liable to serious chastisement. Thus, the person who offered to go another mile not only asserted their own freedom, but put the soldier in the awkward position of requesting a return of his burden. Jesus' call to love our enemies does not ask for passivity, but an active love that reveals justice for what it is without returning it in kind. It is a call to respond to evil by giving witness to God's creative love in Jesus, a response worthy of people who are called to be God's temple.

Weekly Collection Feb. 12

Votive Candles:	203
Utility & Energy:	180
Accent:	12
Ash Wednesday:	150
Easter Flowers:	3
Children & Adult Collection:	\$4,822
Online Collection:	824
Total Collection:	\$6,194
Home missions:	50
Eastern Europe:	30
Total Collection:	\$6,274

Stewardship

Home Missions Appeal



On the First Sunday of Lent, which falls this year on **February 26**, our Diocese traditionally conducts 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. You may be surprised to learn, or 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

Heifer Project

As mentioned last week, 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. If you would like to make a donation to this effort, simply mark it "Heifer" and we will start to board the animals onto the Ark!

Mardi Gras

Let the good times roll...



Ash Wednesday is this week, so "Fat Tuesday" is also this week! **Our Mardi Gras celebration will begin at 6:30 p.m. and end around 8:00 p.m.** Once again this year we are asking that you **bring your favorite desert**, as part of the evening's celebration you can also **B.Y.O.B.** If

you could donate a case of pop or water it would be appreciated.

Don't forget to bring in your **old Palms** from previous years... We will burn them in preparation for Ash Wednesday. Hope you are able to make it to this celebration!



Fish Fry

Throughout the Lenten Season we will have our Fish Fry from **11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.** There is free local delivery between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. We will begin on Ash Wednesday and continue each Friday in Lent; on Good Friday, there will be limited hours and take out only. Menu features: Homemade pierogis, baked haddock, fried fish sandwiches, fries, gluten-free fish and fish sandwiches, and homemade baked goods. **To offer those home made baked goods, we need your help!** Please donate baked goods for Ash Wednesday and Friday, February 24. Beginning March 3 we will rotate through the alphabet as in previous years. There will be a flyer in the church as a reminder of the dates and last names. Your participation is sincerely appreciated.

Faith

Season of Lent

Following our celebration of Mardi Gras we will begin the season of Lent. This year we will 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. 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 to lead, 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 abstinence**, and **Good Friday is a day of Fast and Abstinence.**

Furthering Our Faith / Bible Study

It's not too late to join us as we Further Our Faith on Monday evenings for the next four weeks. We will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the church hall and learn more about **Why We Do What We Do** as Catholics. There is no fee for the program.

Ministry Callout

— The next schedule will run from March 19 through May 7. Please call the office or email Tara —tmanderino@dioceseofgreensburg.org with any changes to your schedule by **Friday, March 3.** Please let us know of your availability for Holy Week/Easter (April 6-9). If you are interested in serving in any ministry, please let me know.

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.



Scholarships

The 2023 annual scholarship of the **Catholic Women's College Club** will be awarded to a deserving Catholic senior girl who is a current resident of: Belle Vernon, Bentleyville, California, Charleroi, Donora, Finleyville, Fredericktown, Monessen, Monongahela or Rostraver Twp. and has a GPA of 3.50 or higher. Applications for the award are available at the parish office or guidance offices at Belle Vernon, Bentworth, Beth Center, California, Charleroi, Monessen, Ringgold, Geibel, Serra, Seton LaSalle or Greensburg Central Catholic High Schools. Deadline for the application is **March 13, 2023.**

Knights of Columbus Council #954 is accepting applications for its annual academic award. Applicant must be a high school senior member of Epiphany of Our Lord Catholic Church, or St. Mary's Byzantine Church, or father or grandfather to a member who is a member of Council #954. **Application deadline is Saturday, April 15.** The application can be obtained from the Epiphany church office, your school, or downloaded from the church website: www.eolparish.com