



February 26, 2023



**1st Sunday
of Lent**

Today's
readings

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

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

Monday, February 27

8:00 AM † Mafalda and Gus August by The Salvadore Family

6:00 PM Taizé

Tuesday, February 28

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

Wednesday, March 1

No Mass

Thursday, March 2

8:00 AM † Tom & Paul Sowko by Family

Friday, March 3

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

6:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 4 — Vigil

4:00 PM † James A. Sepesky by Carol Sepesky & Family

Sunday, March 5 — 2nd Sunday of Lent

8:30 AM † Ron Pro by Rosalie Nicksich

10:30 AM † Calvin & Adeline Smith 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 — March 4 & 5

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 p.m.	G. Pesl	J. Dudas	L. Assenat
8:30 a.m.	F. Petrosky	L. DeFelices	D. DeFelices
10:30 a.m.	M. Gallo	E. Yatchyshyn	T. Smith

Money Counters

Monday, February 27—Team #6— M. Smith

Bethlehem Christian Families

Roni Salsa, representing Bethlehem Christian Families, will be here this **weekend, February 25 & 26**. He will have a variety of items for sale, all made of olive wood from the Holy Land.

A Lenten Journey of God's Grace

Traditionally when we begin Lent we focus on what we plan to do for the next six weeks to prepare for Easter. Usually that means recognizing some aspect of our lives that we want to work on. We might choose to do some sort of sacrifice or give something up.



Well, today we are reminded about what the real meaning of this season is all about, Baptism. The liturgy for this first Sunday of Lent reminds us of how abundant God's grace is. We see this in the goodness of God in creation found in the reading from Genesis, the promise of righteousness through Christ's gift from St. Paul and Jesus' own words from the gospel: "The Lord your God shall you worship, and God alone shall you serve."

Even though our first reading tells us of Adam and Eve's fall from grace, it is not speaking about sin as much as it refers to God's grace. When we focus so much on sin we are basically turning in on ourselves and away from Christ's goodness and mercy. If we use this time of lent to focus only on our sinfulness, it will not help us to embrace the new life that Easter brings.

When we think about the "original sin" of Adam and Eve our thoughts drift back to that idea of a "stain" that needed taken away. This of course was done through the gift of Baptism. It was through this sacrament that we were once again made clean and filled once again with God's grace. That is how we most often look back and define what Adam and Eve did for all of humanity. However, when we focus so much on sin and what sin can do, we tend to overlook the grace that God has showered upon us. Sometimes we can become so blinded by the effects of "original sin" that we totally overlook the fact that God's creation is a great gift and a great calling.

St. Paul is telling us that sin is neither the first nor the last word of human history; rather we are reminded that human history is blessed with God's overabundant grace that was gained through the obedience of Christ. Through Christ, we have been blessed with overabundant life, and creation as well as human existence, are to be enjoyed as God's original and constant blessing.

Sin and grace always present us with choices in life. Temptation forces us into making a choice that can either help us or hurt us. Lent is a good time to think about all of this and try to focus on the blessings and grace that God puts before us in life. Good choices help us to conform more perfectly to Christ and help us to be faithful to our baptismal identity as the Body of Christ. Sinful choices sidetrack us on our journey and weaken our identity as the Body of Christ.

Penitential practices in Lent are not about suffering for the sake of suffering, instead they are meant to expand us beyond self-preoccupation to new self-knowledge, which leads us to concern for the good of others. Lent is a time of conversion, a time when we become more perfectly who we are, the Body of Christ. This is Lent's challenge and invitation!

Weekly Collection Feb. 19

Votive Candles:	265
Utility & Energy:	35
Accent:	12
Ash Wednesday:	133
Lenten Folder:	10
Easter Flowers:	5
Children & Adult Collection:	\$4,243
Online Collection:	\$1,473
Total Collection:	\$6,176
Home missions:	5
Total Collection:	\$6,181

Bake Sale Reminder

Our Fish Fry is in full swing! As a reminder — Those with last **names beginning A–I** are asked to contribute to the Fish Fry Bake Sale on Friday, March 3.

Stewardship

Home Missions Appeal

This weekend, 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. **Forty percent 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.

Brown Bag Sunday

Thank you to those who participated in our Brown Bag Sunday last week. It is certain that the mothers who received items for their newborns and infants are appreciative.

The Gift of Life!

The most urgent question facing our world is whether we can act quickly enough to save the Earth and its inhabitants. Noah faced a similar question thousands of years ago. In biblical times, the actions of people brought on God's flood. Today, we are the ones who threaten to destroy God's creation. Today's flood takes the form of war, environmental destruction and massive poverty and hunger – all problems created by greed and injustice.



God told Noah to build an ark and to take every kind of animal into it. To save the Earth for our children and future generations, we too must build an Ark of refuge. As Noah drew upon faith and hope to secure a future for his people, so we must draw on faith and hope to build a future with no hunger and a healthy environment.

We can all do our part by helping our parish purchase an ARK through Heifer International. Each week of Lent, I will let you know just which animals have boarded the ark!

Mardi Gras

I would like to thank everyone who helped with our Mardi Gras celebration this year. It was a good time for everyone who came. I am grateful to all who helped with the celebration, and for all of you who brought such delicious deserts to top off Fat Tuesday! We definitely "celebrated" our "family" before lent, and that is what made it so very special!

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

Faith

Growing in this Season of Lent

Each of us in our own way tries to become more aware of God's goodness during this season of Lent. The greatest gift Our Lord left us is His very presence in the Eucharist. It would be nice if we all try to make a little effort to attend liturgy more often. As the fullness of Christ becomes more real for us, the better we are as people and certainly we will all make better choices in life. Also during Lent we will offer Taizé prayer on Monday evening at 6:00 p.m. in the Church, as well as Stations on Fridays at 6:00 p.m. For alternate weeks when I am at St. Sebastian's, we need volunteers to lead the stations here. You may partner with someone if you wish. Altar servers are welcome to be cross-bearers.

Furthering Our Faith

During this Lenten Season, join us as we Further Our Faith on Monday evenings. We will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the church hall and learn more about *Why We Do What We Do* as Catholics.

St. Sebastian's Lenten Reflection

All women are invited to attend an Afternoon of Lenten Reflection, sponsored by the Ladies of Faith of St. Sebastian, on **Saturday, March 11 from 1-3 p.m.** in St. Sebastian Church. Our guest speaker will be Seminarian Mario Porreca, followed by the Stations of the Cross, Through the Eyes of Mary. We look forward to seeing you there.

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). Let me know if you are interested in joining any of the ministries.

First Eucharist Parent / Child Workshop

Parents/Guardians of children who are to make their First Holy communion this spring are required to attend one of two meeting dates:

March 4 from 9—11 a.m.

St. John the Baptist Parish Hall, Perryopolis
or **March 11 from 9 — 11 a.m.**
at St. Sebastian Church, Belle Vernon.



Sausage Sale

HOMEMADE SAUSAGE SALE

The **Holy Name Society** will hold a sausage sale on April 4 & 5. All orders must be in by **Saturday, March 25**. 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

____ lbs.
____ lbs.
____ lbs.

LOOSE

____ lbs. **Sweet Sausage**
____ lbs. **Hot Sausage**
____ 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**.