

January 9, 2022

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

"I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." - Lk 3:16bc



LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, January 8 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Teresa Trozzi by Phil & Art Trozzi

Sunday, January 9 — The Baptism of the Lord

8:30 AM † Virginia Quattro by Family

10:30 AM † Watson Family by Family

Monday, January 10

8:00 AM † Julie Amendola by Kristeen Gouvela

Tuesday, January 11

No Mass

Wednesday, January 12

No Mass

Thursday, January 13

8:00 AM † Angela Gallo Lancas by Jim Hazy

Friday, January 14

No Mass

Saturday, January 15 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Walter & Stella Anders by Sons

Sunday, January 16 — 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM † Rita Cocca by Goddaughter Mary AnneTurkovich Hackinson

10:30 AM † Adina Mancini by Family

Parish Office:

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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](https://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 — January 15 & 16

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 p.m.	P. Fantauzzi	L. Henry	T. Todd
8:30 a.m.	J. Petritis	L. DeFelices	D. DeFelices
10:30 a.m.	W. Vlastic A. Blatnik	E. Yatchyshyn	S. Yatchyshyn

Money Counters

Monday, January 10—Team #1—P. Pettko

We are All God's Beloved

Our celebration of the Baptism of the Lord finishes off the season of Christmas and leads us into Ordinary Time. Today our readings speak about how Jesus was looked at through the eyes of the Gospel writers. It is clear that for the author of



Matthews's gospel Jesus fits the identity of the "suffering servant" Isaiah speaks of in the first reading. We learn from the gospel that Jesus was the one who was commissioned by God to remind the people of God the very heart of scripture. He is God's servant with whom God is pleased and upon whom God put the divine spirit.

As we read all the versions of Jesus' baptism by John, it is clear that there was a lot of discussion about why Jesus had to be baptized in the first place. If baptism was meant to be "for the remission of sins," why should Jesus, who was sinless, be baptized at all? We clearly see that from John's baptism of Jesus there are no doubts about who is the greater between Jesus and John. This was a debate between many of the followers of John for a long time. They were not clear as to who was of greater importance. We hear from John himself what he perceives to be true; namely that Jesus is the Messiah.

In our highly secularized society and with the increasing number of people who view themselves as non-practicing Catholics, we may ask ourselves "What has become of baptism?" What is at issue here deals with meaning and relevance of what Baptism really is. One question that we all need to ask is: why would parents who not only have quit "religious practice" but have also dropped any form of faith education, want their children to be baptized? Baptism seems to be very much at odds with our modern society.

One thing that the baptism of Jesus did was define who he was. It is because Jesus knows who he is that he does what he did. We need to realize that because of our baptism we have been defined as being God's beloved as well. We are reminded today that we all need to revisit both our practice and our theology of baptism. An overemphasis on baptism as a means of purification from original sin limits our understanding of the sacrament.

There is more to baptism than simply purification. Baptism is the revelation of our true identity as children of God. We are baptized "in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." This makes a world of difference; it tells us how great our dignity and our vocation are. Imagine what our parish would be like if every member took the baptismal commission seriously? What might happen in families, in the neighborhood and its schools, in people's workplaces? What pain might be relieved, what suffering made meaningful?

Baptism identifies us as God's beloved children and our mission is to follow Jesus. The dying and rising is the "stuff" our Christian living is all about. We are living justly when we die to selfishness and rise to the needs of others. Like Jesus, we are "showing no partiality" when we die to judgments and categorizing or labeling others and rise to seeing all people as beloved children of God. Like Jesus, we do good when we forgive; we heal others when we offer kind words instead of words that tear down, or help another without being asked. Try to imagine a world where all baptized people live this way!

Meeting

Pastoral / Finance Councils will meet on Monday, January 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the church hall.

With Deepest Sympathy — Condolences are extended to the families of DOLORES YONEK AND SHARON LUNDT. May God grant them eternal rest, and comfort to their families. We commend their souls to rest in the peace of Christ.

Stewardship

Weekly Collection Dec. 27

Votive Candles:	244
Utility & Energy:	50
Accent:	27
Advent:	110
Christmas:	9,772
Christmas Flowers:	447
End of Year Gifts:	6,665
Children & Adult Collection:	5,439
Online Collection:	775
Total Collection:	\$23,529
Children & Family	570
Total Collection:	\$24,099

Weekly Collection Jan. 3

Votive Candles:	166
Utility & Energy:	275
Accent:	3
Christmas:	925
Christmas Flowers:	32
Solemnity of Mary:	784
End of Year Gifts:	1,560
Children & Adult Collection:	3,591
Online Collection:	1,113
Total Collection:	\$8,449

Taxes

Tax Statements



It is that time of year when we start to think about gathering all of our “stuff” for taxes. If you would like a letter with your contributions for 2021, please let us know and we will get one out to you.

Cemetery Upkeep

Maintaining a cemetery can become a major task throughout the year. Not only is there the cutting of the grass and trimming, but we need to ensure that the cemetery is kept safe. I am sure that you have noticed that many of the trees lining the cemetery are old and need some attention. Many of the pine trees are simply falling down piece by piece with every wind storm we get. It has become apparent that these trees need to be cut down.

In looking at what the cost will be, as with everything else in life, it has gone up. We are looking at about \$10,000 to take down the old and rotting trees. This is a lot of money but it is something that cannot be ignored. If you are able to help out with a donation for the upkeep of the cemetery, it would be greatly appreciated.



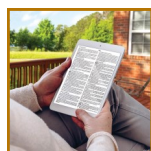
Pierogi Making

We're gearing up for our spring pierogi making. We will be making them on Sundays after 10:30 a.m. Mass and Mondays at 9 a.m. in January and February. There will be no pierogi making the week of March 1 (Week of Ash Wednesday). The January Dates are:

- Sunday, January 16, Monday, January 17
- Sunday, January 23, Monday, January 24
- Sunday, January 31, Monday, February 1

Daily Readings

Readings for the week of January 9, 2022



Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/ Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17

Faith

Looking ahead to spring...

Seems like a long way off, however the smells of spring will most certainly be welcomed. As we try to get back to a somewhat normal schedule here at Church we are looking at events that will be coming up. During February, we hope to have a **cinnamon roll sale**; information will be in upcoming bulletins.

We are just getting through the season of Christmas but it won't be long before **Lent** (March 2) is upon us. We are planning our **Mardi Gras** celebration, hoping to make up for the one we lost out on last year. Throughout the weeks of Lent we will resume **Taizé, and Bible Study** on Mondays and our **Fish Fries** on Fridays. There will be a sign up sheet in the back of the church — if you are able to help us with the Fish Fries in some form or other, please sign up and we will be in contact.

We are also planning another **Car Show** after Easter. These are a few things to look forward to. We will keep you informed in the bulletins as events get closer.

Ministry Callout



Please submit any changes to your schedule to Tara by **Wednesday, January 19**. The new schedule will run from January 30—March 13. If you are interested in serving in any liturgy and not currently doing so, please call the office. You are most welcome. We are always in need of **altar servers, lectors and cantors**. For changes: call the office or email Tara at tmanderino@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Money Counters

If you are interested in serving in this ministry, let us know. We can always use more people. We will soon be reorganizing teams, but you are welcome at any time.

Around the Diocese

Virtual Bible studies offered

Two virtual Bible studies are being offered over the Zoom platform: “**The Acts of the Apostles**,” **Tuesdays from 6:30-8 p.m.**, and “**Samuel 1 and 2**,” **Fridays from 9:30-10:45 a.m.** There is no cost, but registration and a workbook are required. The studies are offered through Journeys Online Spiritual Ministry. For more information or to register, contact Molli Vassar at 724-366-9552 or molli.vassar@gmail.com.

Spread the News!

The 12 Diocese of Greensburg Catholic schools now have millions of dollars in tuition assistance available! Become a **TOP Student** today. Visit www.CatholicSchoolsGuide.org or call 724-552-2565.

Diocesan clergy cookbook available

The Diocese of Greensburg's first clergy cookbook, **Faith and Food**, is a collection of more than 40 delicious personal or family recipes submitted by bishops, priests and deacons from the Diocese. Faith and Food can be **purchased online at www.DioceseofGreensburg.org/cookbook** or by mailing a \$40 check to: Clergy Cookbook, 725 E. Pittsburgh St., Greensburg, PA 15601. Please include name and a shipping address.

Sacraments:

Reconciliation: Tuesday at 5:00 p.m.

Baptism, Marriage, Ministry of the Sick, please call the office.