

January 7, 2024



Today's  
readings

# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." - Mt 2:1-2



## LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

### Saturday, January 6 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Stella & Walter Anders by Sons

### Sunday, January 7 — The Epiphany of the Lord

8:30 AM † Julia Francowic by Harhai Family

10:30 AM † Albert 'Cooky' Foglia by Max & Jamie Chywiki

### Monday, January 8

8:00 AM † John Dudas by Herman & Patti Bigi

### Tuesday, January 9

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

### Wednesday, January 10

No Mass

### Thursday, January 11

8:00 AM † Ramona Sapone by Andrea Hopkins

### Friday, January 12

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

### Saturday, January 13—Vigil

4:00 PM † Vincent Burger by wife, Ethel & Sons

### Sunday, January 14 — 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM † Helen Alessio by Ron & Roxanne Radacsy

10:30 AM † Teresa Trozzi by Sons, Phillip & Arthur

#### 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](http://www.eolparish.com)

[youtube.com/EpiphanyofOurLordCatholicChurch](https://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 13 & 14

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 p.m.	G. Pesi	L. Henry	V. Watkins
8:30 a.m.	S. Stein	L. DeFelices	T. Todd
10:30 a.m.	W. Vlasic	K. Byron	C. Blatnik

#### Money Counters

Monday, January 8—Team #3—K. Byron

## The Epiphany of the Lord

Today is one of my favorite celebrations in the Church year. For centuries now people have been fascinated with the story of the Magi. Eastern Rite and Orthodox churches celebrate the Epiphany, rather than Christmas as the time of gift-giving in imitation of the Magi bringing gifts to Jesus. The star, along with the manger, has been the most popular image on Christmas cards.



With all of the mania of Christmas behind us, most people have packed up all of their decorations and put them away for another year, so that we can focus on the revelation of the Incarnate Christ without distraction. And yet for many churchgoers the story of the Magi is all they know of it. Ultimately this feast points to the wonder of God's plan for all people. It deals with life and all of the divisions we are faced with in our world as well as in our hearts.

Through the wisdom of Isaiah we can see that here is a man who is well aware of the perils in life and the struggles of people to attain freedom. For Isaiah as well as for all of the Jewish people of his day, Jerusalem is the center of the world and the focal point of all the hopes and dreams of the Jewish people. He speaks very inclusively about all nations walking by the light of Yahweh. He dreams of how the Jewish people will lead all people to God and share in the blessings of salvation. He is more than anxious to rally the spirit of the Israelites so that they can find hope for a better future. We all need a spokesperson like Isaiah to help us realize our hopes in times of trouble. People all over the world, living in darkness with poverty war and oppression, look for a light to lead them. Isaiah's prophecy is an excellent example which speaks to the hopes of all peoples who follow a star that shines on a better future. We all look for "epiphanies" or revelations for a better world and a deeper faith in God.

Matthew in our Gospel for today reflects on Isaiah's dream to include all people in God's plan of salvation. Like Isaiah, it is the light that guides the Magi to the Christ child. These Magi are not ordinary men. The Greek word "magi" refers to a priestly cast known for their wisdom and ability to interpret dreams and decipher astrological phenomena. The gifts that they brought; gold for a king, frankincense which is a symbol of prayer rising to God and myrrh, a symbol of one who will die, suggests that these men have received a special revelation or epiphany from God as to who the child Jesus was. The Magi's journey symbolizes for us our own human experience, our journeys both physical and spiritual. In celebrating this feast today we all give witness to a universal truth based on the experience of all people and their quest to find God. Their journey reflects our own lives, our own stories, our own gifts which we bring to God.

Salvation is meant for all, if we are willing to follow God's signs of the gift. Although we may not abandon everything in life just to follow a star, the story helps us to recognize that in our daily living God does lead us. We just have to have the faith and insight to recognize that guiding light. If we walk by faith following our own stars in life who knows what might be at the end of our journey.

**Congratulations** to our children who made their First Penance on **Thursday, January 4**. Also, Religious Education classes will resume on Monday, **January 8 at 6:30 p.m.** This is for parents and students.



**With Deepest Sympathy** — Condolences are extended to the family of NORMA G. (HAFFER) SCALISE. May God grant her eternal rest, and comfort to her family. We commend her soul to rest in the peace of Christ.

## Tax Statements

It is that time of year when we need to start gathering our information to file taxes! If you would like a statement from the Church, please let us know and we will get one sent to you after the first week of the new year.

### Weekly Collection Dec. 24

Votive Candles:	348
Utility & Energy:	2
Accent:	47
Christmas Flowers:	342
Christmas:	7,684
Children & Adult Collection:	7,571
Online Collection:	1,064
End of Year:	975
<b>Total Collection:</b>	<b>\$18,033</b>
Children & Family	839
Eastern Europe	10
<b>Total Collection:</b>	<b>\$18,882</b>

### Weekly Collection Dec. 31

Votive Candles:	221
Utility & Energy:	320
Accent:	18
Christmas Flowers:	120
Christmas:	305
Solemnity of Mary:	636
Children & Adult Collection:	6,318
Online Collection:	1,424
End of Year:	775
<b>Total Collection:</b>	<b>\$10,137</b>
Children & Family	60
<b>Total Collection:</b>	<b>\$10,197</b>

## A Prayer for Our Earth

By Pope Francis

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe, and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this Earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the Earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. Amen.



## Groups

**Holy Name Sunday** is next **Sunday, January 7**. There will be Corporate Communion at the 8:30 a.m. Mass. The regular monthly meeting will follow in the church hall. At this meeting, there will be nominations and election of new officers for 2024 and 2025.

Holy Name Society members are reminded that their dues for 2024 should be paid at this time. Please place your dues in the blue envelope in the regular church collection or send it to the church office.

The Epiphany Ladies will meet on **Sunday, January 14** after the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Meeting and social will be held in the Church Hall. All women of the Parish are welcome to attend.

**Parish Contacts:** Pastor: Rev. Michael Crookston: mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org  
Sec.: Tara Manderino: tmanderino@dioceseofgreensburg.org  
Faith Formation: Scott Martin: smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org

## A New Year of Hope

*New Year  
New Beginnings  
New Intentions  
New Thoughts  
New Focus  
New Results*

Life is full of new beginnings, we move from one situation to another. We carry with us the successes and disappointments of our past and make them a part of who we are in the present. We learn from our mistakes (sometimes) and do our best to avoid them in the future. In a perfect world this would be the golden rule. However we do not live in a perfect world and it is sad to say that we repeat a lot of our mistakes over and over and never learn our lesson. **We have another new beginning** with the start of a new year, and there are many opportunities that lie ahead with many challenges to be met. There will be much success and probably some failures, but we need to start this year with a spirit of hope in our minds as well as in our hearts.

## Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

As I mentioned last week in the bulletin, beginning the first Sunday of Lent we will be permitted to receive the Precious Blood with Holy Communion. It has been quite a while since we have been able to share in this gift because of COVID. It is important for you to remember, that even though we are permitted to share in the cup, you certainly do not have to, the choice is yours, as it was before.



In order for this to be even possible at our Church, **we will need more people to step up and serve** as a Special Minister of Holy Communion. To be able to share the Body and Blood of Christ with the members of our community is truly an honor and a privilege.

As with all of the ministries in the Church, everybody needs to have their clearances. If you were a minister before and wish to continue, please call the office and see if you are up to date. with your clearances. If you will be new to the ministry, we will help you to get your clearances done.

We are all called to share who and what we are with the community making up the Body of Christ. **I am asking that YOU consider being a part of this ministry.**

## Epiphany

This weekend, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord and our feast day. Epiphany celebrates the revelation that Jesus was the Son of God, focusing on this revelation to the



Three Wise Men, His baptism and the wedding feast at Cana. As a holiday, it predates the celebration of Christmas on December 25. Epiphany is also a traditional time of blessing homes. Using blessed chalk, families inscribe the blessing over the doorway to their homes. This year the inscription reads:

**20+C+M+B+24**

The initials stand for Casper, Melchoir and Balthazar, as well as the Latin phrase "Christus mansionem benedicat," or, "Christ, bless this house."

**Be sure to take a piece of blessed chalk** from the back of the church for your inscription. The complete house blessing is posted on the website: [www.eolparish.com](http://www.eolparish.com)

## Ministry Callout

Please let Tara know if there are any changes to your schedule by Friday, January 12. The new schedule will run from January 21 through March 10. Please call the office or email Tara at [tmanderino@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:tmanderino@dioceseofgreensburg.org).