

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

January 1, 2023



A PENNSYLVANIA CHARITABLE TRUST
A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG



Today's
Reading

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 31 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Anthony F. Manderino II by Tara & Sons

Sunday, January 1 — Solemnity of Mary

8:30 AM † Metro Petrosky, Jr. by Flo Petrosky

10:30 AM † Rita Cocca by Nida Sungala

Monday, January 2

8:00 AM † Robert Kotch by Clemmie Malec & Family

Tuesday, January 3

No Mass

Wednesday, January 4

No Mass

Thursday, January 5

8:00 AM † Virginia Saunders by Tom & Carolyn Kmetz

Friday, January 6

No Mass

Saturday, January 7 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Richard Fantauzzi by Linda Chilzer

Sunday, January 8 — The Epiphany of the Lord

8:30 AM † Leo Janol by Sophia

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

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.

The office will be closed on Monday, January 2

Ministry Schedule — Jan. 7 & Jan. 8

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 p.m.	D. Harkins	L. Henry	L. Assenat
8:30 a.m.	K. Miller	A. Pastella	V. Watkins
10:30 a.m.	M. Gallo	K. Imbrescia	M. Smith B. Smith

Money Counters

Tuesday, January 3—Team #4— J. Petrettis



With Deepest Sympathy — Condolences are extended to the family of GENE MICHAEL YATCHYSHYN, SR. May God grant him eternal rest, and comfort to his family. We commend his soul to rest in the peace of Christ.

A New Year of Hope

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 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. Today we have another new beginning with the start of a new year. 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.

Our first reading today from the book of numbers speaks to us of a blessing which says: “The Lord look kindly upon you and give you peace!” This is something that we can all hope for and at the beginning another new year it is a perfect way to start. After months during which our world has been scarred by natural disasters, terrorist attacks, and continuing poverty, we need the hope that things can be different. We need always remind ourselves that we are not bound by the past; rather we have the power to bring change and goodness to our lives and to our world. We don’t have to repeat the same mistakes over and over again, we can change. This is the meaning behind the incarnation of Jesus. We have been given a blessing of hope as adopted children of God. St. Paul sees Jesus as the ultimate blessing of God and emphasizes our good fortune by being adopted sons and daughters of God. In recognizing this blessing our lives cannot help but be filled with Hope!

The beginning of the New Year has traditionally been recognized as a time when we honor Mary as the Mother of God. Mary is the first believer in God’s promise of hope. She treasures and reflects on all she sees and hears and becomes a universal model of faith for all believers. Today we honor Mary fittingly at the beginning of 2006. We reflect on the tender heart of a woman shining throughout history as the first to say yes to the birth of the One whom the shepherds announced and praised. As she treasured all these things in her heart, we treasure her as the Mother of God, a blessing for us all. As you journey through the New Year carry this blessing with you. Remember the words of blessing that we hear from the book of numbers and know that God is with us all as a continual source of hope and strength. There is nothing too big for us to overcome as long as we carry this hope in our hearts.

Happy New Year

To a good portion of the world, once December 25 has come and gone, Christmas is over. For the Church, though, it has only begun. The octave of Christmas lasts eight days; Christmas traditionally ends with the Feast of Epiphany. During this Christmas Season, as we enter the new year, I wish you a year filled with the peace of Christ.

“The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace! (Numbers 6:24-26)”

If you would like to **listen to the bible** when you can, check out the audio version of the YouVersion Bible app (Audio on Bible.com—YouVersion). This is the direct link to instructions: <https://help.youversion.com/en/article/ayv8e2ormh-how-to-listen-to-bible-audio-on-bible-com>

The thoughts of Christmas...

As I sit and ponder the past few weeks, it is hard to believe that we have celebrated Christmas yet another time. It seems that the birth of Jesus comes upon us so quickly, and then it is gone. However, we are still in the great season of Christmas, at least until the 6th of January. In looking back over the past few weeks, I am overwhelmed by the goodness and generosity of the people from our parish. I cannot thank you all enough for the many cards and gifts that you have given to me.

- ◆ I also am edified by the way people so generously give of their time during this busy season when they certainly have enough of their own work to do. I would like to thank all of our **Liturgical Ministers** for the extra time they put into serving with the Liturgies.
- ◆ Christmas would just not be right without music. I would like to acknowledge **Danny Godla, Jeff Olup and Kaetlyn Denman** our accompanists, and **all the cantors** for the time and energy they put in.
- ◆ I think that our church looks beautiful, and this certainly did not happen on its own. We are blessed with many gifted and talented people who came and helped decorate. I want you all to know how grateful I am for sharing your time and energy.
- ◆ Although the whole reason for all this work is to celebrate the gift of Christ among us, I would just like to thank you, our parishioners, for your support and generosity.

We are blessed here at The Epiphany of Our Lord, be grateful for these blessings and we will carry them with us as we begin a new year in the Peace of Christ!

Fr. Mike

Why We Do What We Do

History of the Rosary

Although a longstanding tradition attributed the rosary to Saint Dominic and the Dominican Order, the practice of using beads to count prayers predates the Dominicans by a few hundred years. In fact, it seems that what we now think of as the rosary (which means “garland of roses”) was first developed by illiterate peasants and religious brothers and sisters as a way of offering 150 “Our Fathers” to replace the praying of the 150 psalms in the Divine Office.

The practice of reciting 150 Hail Marys (which was later subdivided into 15 decades of 10 Hail Marys) arose during the late Middle Ages. Devotion to the rosary began to flourish in the nineteenth century, especially as new devotions to Mary began to spread throughout Europe and the New World. An annual liturgical celebration of Our Lady of the Rosary was introduced into the Church calendar in 1573 and it has been observed on the date of October 7 since 1913.

In the apostolic letter On the Most Holy Rosary, Pope Saint John Paul II not only added five new mysteries to the traditional fifteen, but he also reminded Catholics that the rosary is, at its core, an opportunity to go deeper into the life of Jesus: “The rosary, though clearly Marian in character, is at heart a Christocentric prayer ... It has all the depth of the Gospel message in its entirety, of which it can be said to be a compendium. It is an echo of Mary’s prayer, her perennial Magnificat ... With the rosary, the Christian people sit at the school of Mary and are led to contemplate the beauty of the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love” (no. 1). ©LPi



First Reconciliation



On **Thursday, January 12** our second grade parishioners will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. We will meet at **St. Sebastian Church at 6:30 p.m.** Please keep our young parishioners in your prayers as they prepare to receive this Sacrament.

Votive Candles

Lighting candles for various reasons is a long standing tradition in our faith. For many years we have offered candles in church, and every week we seem to light just about all of the candles that are put out. We have charged \$2.00 for these candles for a very long time, however the price of the candles keeps going up and up. We are going to have to raise the **price of the candles to \$3.00** beginning with the New Year.



Ministry Callout

All lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and altar servers, please submit any changes to your regular ministry schedule by Thursday, January 5. The new schedule will run from January 21 through March 12. Please contact Tara at the office, or email tmanderino@dioceseofgreensburg.org. If you would like to serve in any of the ministries, please let us know.

Groups

Holy Name Sunday is next week, January 8. Corporate Communion will be at the **8:30 a.m. Mass**. The regular monthly meeting will follow in the church hall. Holy Name members are reminded that their dues for 2023 should be paid at this time. Please place your dues (blue) envelope in the regular church collection.

Epiphany Ladies will meet on **Sunday, January 8**, after the 10:30 a.m. Mass in the Church Hall. All women of the Parish are welcome to join.

CDA, Court Monessen #776, will meet on Sunday, January 15 in the Church Hall **following the 10:30 a.m. Mass**. **The Rosary will be prayed starting at 10:00 a.m.** in the Church. All are invited to participate in the Rosary and all Catholic women are welcome to attend the meeting. For additional information, please contact Regent Debbie Genemore at 724-708-8335.

Due to the bulletin transmission deadline, last week's collection will be posted next week.

Weekly Collection Dec. 19

Votive Candles:	152
Utility & Energy:	140
Accent:	110
Advent Folder:	5
Christmas Flowers:	196
Christmas:	3,862
St. Lucy:	110
End of Year:	1,960
Children & Adult Collection:	7,627
Online Collection:	1,591
Total Collection:	\$15,753
Family & Children:	98
Total Collection:	\$15,851

CHURCH CONTACT:
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