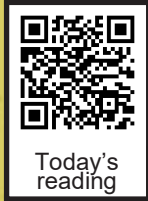


January 8, 2023

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
**THE WISE
STILL SEEK HIM**



A PENNSYLVANIA CHARITABLE TRUST
A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG



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LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

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

Monday, January 9

8:00 AM † Dodrothy Sabol Novakovich by Aurelie

Tuesday, January 10

No Mass

Wednesday, January 11

No Mass

Thursday, January 12

8:00 AM † Michaelene "Micki" Campana by Gloria Hayes

Friday, January 13

No Mass

Saturday, January 14 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Stella & Walter Anders by Sons

Sunday, January 15 — 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM † Maiolini Family by Jeff Maiolini

10:30 AM † Josephine & Quirino & Rosetta & Frank Ciccarelli by Marge Talarico & John Ciccarelli

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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 — Jan. 14 & Jan. 15

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 p.m.	P. Fantauzzi	J. Dudas	J. Smith G. Smith
8:30 a.m.	S. Stein	J. Todd	T. Todd
10:30 a.m.	A. Blatnik	K. Byron	C. Blatnik

Money Counters

Monday, January 9 — Team #5 — R. Croushore

"...but upon you the Lord shines."

Each of the readings for this celebration of the Epiphany of the Lord echoes both the joy and gratitude that arise when God's light appears in the midst of human cares. Isaiah in the first reading speaks of a people reflecting the joy and enthusiasm of the return to Jerusalem



and Judah after some seventy years of exile to Babylon. Epiphany is from a Greek word which means "manifestation." This reading is filled with references to light, splendor, radiance and glory. God is Light, not only for his own people but also for all nations. The Epiphany is about the universality of salvation, as exemplified by the pilgrim journey of the magi as told in the gospel. Isaiah speaks to us about the joy that can be found when we are able to recognize the light that God brings to the problems of life.

St. Paul in the second reading addresses a community of people who were distraught over many challenges that confronted them in life. They were exposed to many different religious cultures and "mystery cults." It was difficult to stay true to the message of Jesus. Paul gives us a clear statement on the church and its mission. He looked at the Gentiles as being on equal footing with believers coming from Jewish backgrounds and did not have any problem viewing them as "co-heirs, members of the same body, and co-partners in the promise of Christ Jesus through the gospel." Like Isaiah, Paul gives us a strong example of the universality of salvation. The gospel presents us with the all too familiar story of the Three Kings or the Magi. 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. 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. Like Isaiah, it is light that guides the Magi to the Christ child, bringing them into the presence of God. 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.

CHURCH CONTACT:

Pastor: Rev. Michael J. Crookston,
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Director of Faith Formation: Scott Martin,
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Bulletin Sec.: Tara Manderino,
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Maintenance: Patrick Frederick

With Deepest Sympathy — Condolences are extended to the family of EMILY ZBOYOVSKY. May God grant her eternal rest, and comfort to her family. We commend her soul to rest in the peace of Christ.

Stewardship

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 statement of your 2022 donations for your taxes, please call the office and let us know and we will get one out to you

Weekly Collection Dec. 25

Votive Candles:	158
Utility & Energy:	0
Accent:	14
Christmas Flowers:	435
Christmas:	6,851
Solemnity of Mary:	10
End of Year:	1,645
Children & Adult Collection:	3,363
Online Collection:	1,530
Total Collection:	\$14,006
Family & Children:	704
Total Collection:	\$14,710

Weekly Collection Jan. 1

Votive Candles:	233
Utility & Energy:	340
Accent:	6
Christmas:	985
Solemnity of Mary:	1,050
End of Year:	2,025
Children & Adult Collection:	5,361
Online Collection:	1,283
Total Collection:	\$11,283
Family & Children:	49
Total Collection:	\$11,332

Soup Sale



The Epiphany ladies are selling **homemade soup!** Warm yourself up with a **quart** (or two) of **potato or broccoli cheese** (\$7 each); **chicken noodle or beef barley** (\$8 each).

Place your order with a member or on the form in the back of the church by January 20th. Orders can be paid for and picked up after Mass on January 28th and 29th.

Scholarship

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**.

House Blessing

Epiphany is the traditional time to **bless our homes** in remembrance of the hospitality of the Holy Family to the Wise Men, and **asking for protection and blessing** on the home and all who enter.

The home blessing is done by writing on the door or door frame with chalk the symbols **20+C+M+B+23**. The 20 and 23 represent the current year. The + reminds us of the cross on which Jesus died. The C, M, and B stand for the traditional names of the Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, as well as an abbreviation for the Latin phrase "*Christus mansionem benedicat*" which means "Christ bless this house."

Gather the family around the front door of your home and pray together: Make the Sign of the Cross, Read Matthew 2; 1-12. *Pray:* "Lord God of heaven and earth, / you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation / by the guidance of a star. / Bless this house and all who inhabit it. / Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others / may reflect your love. / We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. Chalk the door, door-frame or plaque, and conclude by saying the Our Father.

Faith

Feast of Our Church

On the 8th of January we celebrate the feast day of our parish family. For 32 years we have been a **united Catholic presence** here in Monessen. Throughout those years we have met many challenges which were handled with style and grace. Sometimes we have a tendency to take so much in life for granted, and I think that our church is one of those things. We are blessed as a parish in so many ways. There are many people who share generously their time and talent. The activities, classes, and events are met with tremendous success.

As we begin another new year, fiscally as well as a parish family, we should all take a look at what we have and who we are and just give thanks. Nobody knows what tomorrow will bring, but as long as we work together sharing the goodness God has given us, we will always have success. I just want to say how grateful I am to all of you for the love and support that you share. Happy Anniversary to you all!

Fr. Mike



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. Sadly, like everything else, the price of the candles keeps going up. Beginning this week, We have to raise the **price of the candles to \$3.00**. I hope that this does not put any burden on those of you who light them.

Pope Benedict

Bishop Kulick said the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI calls us as a faith community, into a time of remembrance and a time of prayer.

"I join with the faithful in the Diocese of Greensburg and Catholics throughout the world as we mourn the loss of our Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI," Bishop Kulick said. "He dedicated his life to serving the Church in a variety of capacities. He was a consummate theologian and one of the great intellectual lights of the Post-Conciliar Church. He faced many modern-day challenges in his papacy and proved himself to be a gentle shepherd. May God grant him eternal rest and peace," Bishop Kulick said.

It is the custom that the nine days following the funeral of a Pope are observed as official days of mourning in Rome and throughout the Church. **The Novendiales**, as they are called, may be observed in different ways in the various particular Churches.

Groups

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.