



**March 17, 2024**



Today's readings

**5th Sunday  
Of Lent**

## 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



A PENNSYLVANIA CHARITABLE TRUST

## OUR LOCATION

### Epiphany of Our Lord Catholic Church

44 Pennsylvania Blvd., Monessen, PA 15062

 724-684-7661

 [www.eolparish.com](http://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](mailto:mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Director of Faith Formation:**  
Scott Martin  
[smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Bulletin Sec.:** Tara Manderino  
[tmanderino@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:tmanderino@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Maintenance:** Patrick Frederick

## LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

### Saturday, March 16 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Deceased Members of the Ciepley & Kamenicky Families by Myron & Beatrice Ciepley

### Sunday, March 17 — 5th Sunday of Lent

8:30 AM † Ann Maisano by Ken & Linda  
10:30 AM † Robert Fuoco by Angela Fuoco & Family

### Monday, March 18

8:00 AM † Robert F. Kotch by Wife, Cindy & Family

### Tuesday, March 19

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

### Wednesday, March 20

No Mass

### Thursday, March 21

8:00 AM † Angela, Fiore & John Sacco & Frank, Marie & Frank J. Dolessandro & Mary Lou Loulis by Julia Cain

### Friday, March 22

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian  
Noon Stations of the Cross  
6:00 PM Stations of the Cross

### Saturday, March 23 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Henry A. Aloisi by Wife, Luiclle A. Aloisi & Children, Dino A Aloisi and Janinie M. Aloisi

### Sunday, March 24 — Palm Sunday

8:30 AM † Deceased members of Fedorchik & Wavrek Families by Roberta & Ron Wavrek  
10:30 AM † Shirley "Chichi" Kuvinka by Son, Lenny & Teresa

### 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

### Ministry Schedule — March 24—25

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 p.m.	R. Kozar S. Stein	A. Puntuerio J. Elias R. Lucas	L. Assenat
8:30 a.m.	F. Petrosky G. Pesi	L. DeFelices M. Dzurik A. Patella	T. Todd
10:30 a.m.	M. Sacco W. Vlastic	E. Yachtyshyn K. Byron T. Mazzei	M. Guiliford

### Money Counters

Tuesday, March 19 — Team #1— B. Geis

## Like a Grain of Wheat...



With only two weeks left to this Lenten season, our focus is starting to turn to death and rebirth. Lent is not just a season for our own personal spiritual growth; it is a time of renewal for the whole church. All over the world, men and women are using these last weeks to prepare themselves to be reborn through Baptism and sustained through the Eucharistic table. It is a time of birth for the Church universal, we all rejoice in the newness that Easter brings.

If we were to look honestly at our lives, we would probably have to agree that an awful lot of our behavior, attitudes and opinions are based on past behavior or experiences. There are things in all of our lives that we would just as soon let go of, but too often we carry way too much of our past with us and it does affect our present, not always in a positive way. In the first reading today Jeremiah is reminding the people of Israel as well as all of us that God will make a new covenant. Not one that is written on stone tablets but instead, in our hearts. This new covenant is all about relationships in life; ours with God, as well as with one another. This new covenant which God offers to us is one of love, which puts us in a seat of responsibility, one to another.

This covenant is given birth within us at our Baptism. It is through those cleansing waters of our Baptism that we are brought into this new covenant. It is through our Baptism that we are forever bound to God. This covenant which is written within our hearts calls each of us to spend our lives in service of the God who made us through our service or relationship to one another. Jesus in the gospel tells us exactly how this is to be done.

Today we hear from the last gospel of John before the Passion and death of Jesus. In this selection we are given the analogy of being like a grain of wheat. Jesus is facing his own mortal end and is in anguish over what he was going to have to deal with. As much as he would have like to turn away and just get on with life, he knew that it was for this purpose that he came. He reminds all of us who are baptized into this new life that we are just like that grain of wheat. In order for it to bear fruit, it must fall to the earth and die. Our lives are just like seeds. Sometimes we have to bury our past to get new life. Sometimes we need to remember the covenant God has made with us not to remember our past transgressions. It is only when we are willing to die, that we can bring forth new life. Dying to self is what a disciple of Jesus is all about.

Just as we are in relationship with God, so too are we in relationship with one another. We must be willing to die, or give of ourselves if we are to be productive in life. A seed will not grow without falling to the earth and dying, and neither can we. It is through the covenant of God's grace that we are able to allow ourselves to die in order to bring forth new life. Like a seed or grain of wheat, we are filled with much potential. We must be willing to die to one way of life in order to bring forth new life. Over the remaining days of this Lenten season, think of the many ways that you have fallen to the earth and died, just to bring forth new life.

### Weekly Collection 10

Votive Candles:	168
Utility & Energy:	80
Accent:	24
Lenten Folder:	900
Easter Flowers:	572
Holy Thursday:	30
Good Friday:	35
Easter:	115
Heifer:	1855
Children & Adult Collection:	\$3,990
Online Collection:	\$619
<b>Total Collection:</b>	<b>\$8,388</b>

**With Deepest Sympathy** — Condolences are extended to the family of ANTOINETTA D'ONOFRIO FIORILLO. May God grant her eternal rest, and comfort to her family. We commend her soul to rest in the peace of Christ.



## Stewardship

### Diocesan Lenten Appeal

Receive and Share is this year's theme for DLA. As we continue with our own Lenten Journey we are reminded that we are all called to share the many ways our lives have been enriched by God's goodness. **As a parish we have been given more blessings than we could ever count.** If we look over the years, the people and events that have made us what we are today are truly priceless! As we assume the responsibility to ensure future generations the faith we have received, we are all called to be responsible with the gifts we have. **Thus far for this year's campaign we have received: \$29,365 which is 34 % of our goal for the year.** If you have not yet responded to DLA for this year, won't you please consider doing so? Your gift will make a difference in the program.

### Holy Land Collection

The holiest days of our liturgical year are quickly approaching. The Sacred Triduum invites us to enter into the central mysteries of our faith, where we can draw closer to God and find His life and transforming power in our own daily living. Good Friday is the day when we commemorate Christ's death and recall that saving act by which we are purified by his loving mercy upon the Cross. **The Pontifical Good Friday Collection is taken for the support of the services and facilities of the Church in the Holy Land.** This is a special place where Jesus taught, healed, forgave, and finally suffered, died, and rose for our salvation. As good stewards of this place, we are responsible for the upkeep and preservation for future generations of the faithful. Monies from this collection are also used for the education and social service support of our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land who are desperately in need of our help.

**Pierogi Making** We will be making pierogis on **Sunday, March 17** following the 8:30 a.m. Mass, and **Monday, March 18**, beginning at 8 a.m. Come and lend a hand. Come when you are able. All help appreciated.

### Filling the ARK!

At this rate, it won't be long until our ARK is filled! The generosity of our parish is sometimes overwhelming. It is gratifying to see that we are so willing to share what we have with those who have so much less. This week we were able to board:

**1 Llama 1 Camel 1 Donkey 2 Trio Ducks 1 Goat  
1 Trio Guinea Pigs 1 Beehive 1 Cow 1 Sheep  
1 Flock of Chicks**

There are Still animals who have yet to be placed on the ARK, if you would like to make a donation please put it in the collection basket.

**Gift of Bees:** The way bees work together is a lesson for us all. They produce food, care for the young, recycle waste and create an effective, efficient community.

They pollinate fruits, flowers and vegetables in the process – a benefit for us all. Bees can as much as double some fruit and vegetable yields. A package of Heifer International bees and a hive give a family better crops, candle wax, pollen for medicine and honey to eat and sell.



Roni Salsa representing the Bethlehem Christian Families, a not-for-profit organization through Land of Peace, will be with us to speak about the Christina situation in the Holy Land this weekend, **March 17 & 18.** Crucifixes, rosaries, and religious articles, all made of Olive Wood will be available to purchase. For more information, please see [www.bcfmission.com](http://www.bcfmission.com)

## Faith

### Penance Services



Penance services through the region will continue this week, leading up to Holy Week. I hope that you will make the effort and take the time to come and share in this sacrament of God's forgiving love.

March 18: St. Anne's, Rostraver, 6:30 p.m.  
March 19: St. Edward's, Herminie, 6:00 p.m.  
March 20: Holy Family, West Newton, 6:30 p.m.  
March 21: St. John's, Perryopolis, 6:30 p.m.

### Services for Holy Week

Believe it or not, next week is Palm Sunday! It is amazing how quickly this month is passing by. As we look at the services of Easter, there are a few matters that need our attention. First of all on Holy Thursday at the Mass of the Lord's Supper I will need people interested in being a part of the **Foot Washing**. Also that evening we will need **volunteers to help "dress" the altar** during Mass. If you are interested in either of these, please sign up in back of the church or let us know by calling the office.



### Choir for Holy Week



We welcome any choir members (both old and new) to **sing together for Holy Week**. The choir will plan to sing for all three Masses of the Paschal Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil on Saturday).

There will be **one rehearsal on Wednesday, March 27 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm** in the church. For any questions, please contact Dan Godla at 412-737-7332. Please **join us! All are welcome.**

### Knights News

In the past month, the Knights of Columbus Council #954 donated \$250 to The Monessen Family Center, donated \$1500 to the Monessen Food Pantry, and supported the St. Sebastian/Epiphany Purse Bash with a \$300 donation. Also, two seminarians were given \$500 each for their studies. Currently they are planning a spaghetti fund-raiser for April.

### Last Supper Program

#### The Last Supper and the Gift of the Eucharist



The Last Supper program will be displayed in the hall of the Church of St. Anne, Rostraver Twp., and run continuously this Sunday, March 17, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and on Monday, March 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and from 6:00 p.m.

to 7:30 p.m. Vatican Art Historian, Dr. Elizabeth Lev, recorded a captivating talk about the scriptural nuances of this historic piece of art. This is a wonderful opportunity to immerse yourself in the Eucharistic Revival!

### Bake Sale Reminder

Those whose last name begins with **A—H**, please remember we need your help to provide goods for the **March 22** Fish Fry bake sale on Friday. Thank you!