

March 26, 2023



**5th Sunday
of Lent**

Today's
readings

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



OUR LOCATION

Epiphany of Our Lord Catholic Church

44 Pennsylvania Blvd., Monessen, PA 15062

📞 724-684-7661

🌐 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

Director of Faith Formation:
Scott Martin
smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Bulletin Sec.: Tara Manderino
tmanderino@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Maintenance: Patrick Frederick

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, March 25 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Steven W. Beck by Kathryn & Mary Dzurik & Rita Lucas

Sunday, March 26 — 5th Sunday in Lent

8:30 AM † Virginia Quattro by Quattro Family

10:30 AM † James Weldon by Wife, Patricia

Monday, March 27

8:00 AM † Kathy Jo & Ronald Yauch by Family

Tuesday, March 28

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

Wednesday, March 29

No Mass

Thursday, March 30

8:00 AM † Dustin Harvey by Mary Jo Smith

Friday, March 31

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

6:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 1 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Bill Hopkins & Ted Zelinsky by Wives, Andrea & Jackie

Sunday, April 2 — Palm Sunday

8:30 AM † David & Rose Perotti & Frank & Irene Vizza by Family

10:30 AM † Angela Lancas by Bruna Falbo

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.

Ministry Schedule — April 1 & 2

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 p.m.	G. Pesi D. Harkins	J. Dudas	M. Smith B. Smith
8:30 a.m.	F. Petrosky M. Melvin	L. DeFelices	D. DeFelices V. Watkins
10:30 a.m.	A. Blatnik M. Sacco	T. Mazzei	C. Blatnik M. Guiliford

Money Counters

Monday, March 26—Team #4— J. Petritis

I Am the Resurrection and the Life...

On this 5th Sunday of Lent we are presented with the dramatic story of Lazarus being raised from the dead. In this gospel of John we can see that the raising of Lazarus by Jesus is definitely to be considered a “sign” that is more than a miracle; a revealing deed pointing towards Jesus’ true identity as “the Resurrection and the Life.”



Ezekiel in the first reading sets the stage for what is to unfold with the liturgy by speaking to us about the hope of life and resurrection. He was a powerful visionary and communicator and a man of hope. He speaks from the heart about the power and promise of Yahweh. He speaks to the people of a promise of raising a beaten people from the grave of defeat, slavery, humiliation and despair. It promises to restore all they imagine they have lost and more. This resurrection of Ezekiel speaks well of the power of God and fits right into the story of Lazarus.

The story of Lazarus being raised from the dead has implications beyond Lazarus’ return to life and bringing the crowd to belief. First of all, Lazarus’ death and being brought back to life foreshadows Jesus’ and our journey from death to life. Even as amazing as the raising of Lazarus is, the full extent of Jesus’ power over death would be revealed only in his resurrection and in ours. Second, the life that Jesus gives us is a life in which we never die at all. Resurrection is not returning to live more of this life; it is a gift of life ever after.

Unlike the story we find in Luke’s gospel where Mary has chosen the better part, in this gospel Mary seems to come out on top. While Mary will basically repeat what has been previously said by Martha, she appears to be struggling with grief and sorrow. On the other hand, Martha is definitely seen as the ideal believer, expressing not only the best of Jewish hope in a resurrection “on the last day,” but also the core of early Christian faith in the resurrection. If we read between the lines of this drama, we can clearly see the questions that the early Christians had about death and afterlife.

Today is a great opportunity for us, as individuals and as a community, to sit down and update where we stand with regard to our faith in a resurrection. The bottom line then is: do we believe in the resurrection of Jesus? Before anything else, we ought to be clear on that foundational matter and its implications.

We do not have all the answers, so we ought to remain modest concerning the way we speak of the afterlife. But, on the other hand, if we truly believe in the resurrection of Christ, we should know that he is “the first born of the dead” and the warrant of our own resurrection. There should be no compromising on both terms of the equation, and this should be a tremendous inspiration for us to live as resurrected people. The question is now ours to answer: “Do you believe this?” What will be our answer?

Weekly Collection March 19

Votive Candles:	262
Utility & Energy:	155
Accent:	85
Lenten Folder:	165
Easter Flowers:	387
Holy Thursday:	30
Good Friday:	30
Easter:	30
Children & Adult	
Collection:	\$5,252
Online Collection:	\$1,316
Total Collection:	\$7,712

Inspiration of the Week:

Though weighed down by grief, Martha rushes out to meet Jesus. She may not understand why he was absent upon the death of her brother, but her faithfulness is undeterred. In the hour of her heartbreak, she knows her only solace is in the embrace of the Lord.



We welcome **Toni Younkin** to the Epiphany of Our Lord Parish. Toni recently made her Profession of Faith and is in full communion with the Catholic Church.

Stewardship

Diocesan Lenten Appeal

With all that is going on in our lives today, I am so grateful to all of you who have responded thus far to the DLA appeal this year. As of last week we have received in pledges and gifts **\$20,712.00!** We are almost half way to our parish goal of \$53,854.00. We have heard from 107 people. If you have not yet responded, won't you consider doing so? Remember that we would like to Repurpose a couple windows from the Church on Knox to fit into our Church. Please know how much I do appreciate everything that you do for your parish, and for what-ever you are able to do with DLA this year, THANK YOU!

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 Trio of Guinea Pigs and one Water Buffalo. There are many 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 a Buffalo: The Water Buffalo is certainly any farmer's friend! Thai farmers



respectfully refer to the water buffalo as "the farmer's friend" because the animal provides the draft power that makes rice cultivation practical, particularly in remote areas. For farmers in Thailand and others throughout Asia, the huge animals provide high-protein milk for families and organic fertilizer for their farms. In the verdant, rugged mountains of the Philippines, farmer Bagwan and his wife Loge remember the days before Heifer International helped them obtain a water buffalo. "We had to do everything manually, even till our land," he and other barefoot villagers used sharpened sticks to prepare mountain rice paddies for planting. The arduous labor left the villager exhausted, often nursing bruised and bleeding feet. Hand planting produced barely enough rice to live on. **"Today our water buffalo has improved the lives and health of our family,"** he said. Water buffalo allow subsistence-level farmers to harvest four times what they can produce by hand-planting.

Pierogi Making

We will be making pierogis on Sunday, March 26 after 8:30 a.m. Mass, and on Monday, March 27 after 8 a.m. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Reminder

There will be no Taizé next week due to penance services.

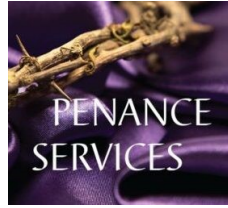
Scholarship

Knights of Columbus Council #954 is accepting applications for its annual academic award. Applicant must be a high school senior member of Epiphany of Our Lord Catholic Church, or St. Mary's Byzantine Church, or father or grandfather to a member who is a member of Council #954.

Application deadline is Saturday, April 15. The application can be obtained from the Epiphany church office, your school, or downloaded from the church website: www.eolparish.com

Faith

Penance services for the Week



Lent, more than any other time of the year, is the time for us to examine our conscience, acknowledge where we are failing, and ask for forgiveness. Too often we fall back on our childhood confession experiences and think, "I haven't lied to anyone", or we no longer engage with as many people as we used to, and feel we haven't "done anything wrong". Some-

times, it's not about what we've done wrong as much as what we can do better. There are many ways to examine our conscience, and consider what we do or fail to do. The dates for the remaining penance services are:

Monday, March 27: St. John's Perryopolis(6:00)

Tuesday, March 28: Epiphany (6:00)

Thursday, March 30: St. Anne's(6:00)

Saturday, April 1: St. Sebastian(Noon)

Preparing for the Triduum

Next week we celebrate Palm Sunday which is then followed by Holy Week. This is one of the most Sacred weeks in our calendar. There are many services that we celebrate to add to the solemnity of the week. I will need some people to help with a few aspects of our liturgy on Holy Thursday. I am looking for three people to carry down the oils at the beginning of Mass as well as people to have their feet washed. This is an ancient practice of our faith, if you have never had your feet washed before, consider volunteering this year. **We also need people to help dress the altar; men and women are welcome.** If you want to be a part of either one of these, there is a sign-up sheet in the church, or you may call the office.



Music for Easter

Interested in singing for Holy Week?

The choir will be singing for Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil Services.

We welcome those choir members who have sung with us before as well as new voices.

There will be a choir practice on Wednesday evening, April 5th at 6: 00 p.m. in the church. Hope you can join us!

Reflect & Respond

Here are few questions to further ponder today's readings.

First Reading:

God revealed to the prophet Ezekiel his divine plan for the resurrection of the dead: "I (will) open your graves and make you come up out of them, my people!"

As a person of faith, how does this promise give you hope?

Second Reading:

Paul insists that for believers, the Spirit dwelling within us gives life to our mortal bodies, raising us from the dead as Christ was raised from the dead.

How does this impact your thoughts about death itself?

Gospel:

In her grief and sadness at the death of her brother Lazarus, Martha professes her belief in Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God.

As the season of Lent draws to a close, in what ways have the last 40 days strengthened your faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior?