



**November 30, 2025**



**1st Sunday of Advent**

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: 3:00 p.m.  
Or by appointment

#### All Sacraments:

Please call the office



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### OUR LOCATION

#### Epiphany of Our Lord Catholic Church

44 Pennsylvania Blvd., Monessen, PA 15062

📞 724-684-7661

📞 724-397-7035 —Emergency Pastoral Care

🌐 [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. Anthony Onoko  
[aonoko@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:aonoko@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Parochial Vicar:** Rev. Michael Thomas  
[mthomas@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:mthomas@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Bulletin Sec.:** Tara Manderino  
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**Maintenance:** Patrick Frederick

## Scripture Reflection

From Fr. Anthony Onoko:

STAY AWAKE: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A,

NOVEMBER 30, 2025

Is 2:1-5; Ps 121; Mt 24:37-44

Grace and peace to you dear brothers and sisters in the Lord. Today is the first Sunday of Advent, year A. It is the beginning of a new liturgical year in the Church.



The Advent season, being the season preceding the Christmas season, is a season of prayer, repentance, preparation, hope and anticipation. It is a time to prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus in history (Christmas), to welcome Him as He comes to us daily in mystery and to prepare for His second coming in glory.

We are reminded that just as Jesus came in history and He comes daily in mystery, He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His coming will have no end. This is what we profess every Sunday, when we recite the Nicene Creed:

He will come again in glory / to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

The question is: "How do we respond to the message of the second coming of Jesus?"

Some people do not believe in this. St Peter tells us in 2 Peter 3:1-18 that many do not believe in the second coming of Jesus. Some think it is ridiculous because they have been hearing this all this time and yet Jesus has not come and therefore He won't come.

Some, on the other hand, are frightened that Jesus is coming again and are scared that this world that they cherish so much, in which they have invested so much, will come to an end.

The readings of today provide answers and insights for us on what our response to this message should be.

In the Second Reading, St. Paul warns us to give up the deeds of darkness. Deeds of darkness are things that we should not be doing as children of God, things that could potentially cause scandal when revealed about us, things that would make us ashamed when we stand before the Lord.

In the First Reading, the Prophet Isaiah says that we should walk in the light of the Lord, i.e, we should live as children of light, giving no room for hidden sins.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells us two things about His second coming.

- A. It is certain
- B. It will be sudden.

Because it is certain and it will be sudden, one of the counsels that Jesus gave us is to be awake.

Sleeping is good; it relaxes the body but we all know that if one oversleeps, one can be in trouble. One can sleep and miss an appointment or miss where he/she is supposed to alight from a bus/train. To be spiritually asleep is also dangerous. Let us therefore be awake spiritually as we await the second coming of Jesus.

What does it mean to be awake spiritually?

1. We should never be lax in prayers and our Christian duties. A Christian who is lax in prayers or who has grown lukewarm is dangerously asleep.
2. To be awake means to be careful of and alert to small, hidden and habitual sins that may want to creep into our lives and gradually destroy our spiritual edifice.
3. To be awake means to be discerning, to be able to differentiate temptation from blessing, to discern what is deceitful, false and evil, no matter how good or godly it appears.

Dear friends, the message today is to be spiritually awake and to be ready always, because Jesus is coming again —it is certain and it will be sudden.

**St Nicholas Feast Day** is on December 6. He is the patron saint of children because of his kindness to them. Tradition is that children will leave their shoes out the night before and they will be filled with little treats, small gifts and coins.



## Stewardship

### Angel Tree

We will be having an Angel Tree this year but we are running behind . Please bear with us and know that **your participation in** this project makes for a joyful Christmas for many children who would otherwise look forward to a gift-less Christmas.

**Due to the bulletin deadline, the collection for Nov. 30 will be listed next week.**



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

**LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK**

**Saturday, November 29 — Vigil**

4:00 PM † John B. Harhai by Family

**Sunday, November 30 — 1st Week of Advent**

8:30 AM Pro Populo

10:30 AM † Ed Monaghan by Ginny and family

**Monday, December 1**

8:00 AM † Mary Ann Gallo by Randy Marino

**Tuesday, December 2**

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

**Wednesday, December 3**

9:00 AM Mass at St. John the Baptist

**Thursday, December 4**

8:00 AM † Verna Janosik by Carol Sepesky & Family

**Friday, December 5**

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

10:15 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

**Saturday, December 6 — Vigil**

4:00 PM † Angeline & Albert Weathers by Temoshenka and McCarthy Families

**Sunday, December 7 — 2nd Sunday in Advent**

8:30 AM Pro Populo

10:30 AM † Deceased Members of the Nick Mascetta Family by Family

**Parish Office:**

44 PENNSYLVANIA BLVD, MONESSEN, PA 15062

Parish Office (24/7): 724-684-7661

Church Hall: 724-684-5512

Religious Education: 724-929-9300

Emergency Pastoral Care: 724-397-7035

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 — Dec. 6 & 7, 2025**

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 p.m.	S. Surdyn	J. Brown G. Pesl J. Elias	D. Harkins
8:30 a.m.	D. DeCarlo	T. Todd S. Campus S. Stein	V. Watkins
10:30 a.m.	M. Melvin	K. Imbreacia P. Francowic K. Byron	M. Guiliford

**Money Counters**

**Monday, December 1 —Team #2— W. Anders**

**Immaculate Conception**

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a holy day of obligation and is celebrated on December 8. Mass will be held at **Epiphany at 8:00 a.m.** and at St. Sebastian at 6:30 p.m. Both Masses will be on Monday, December 8. Masses at St. John the Baptist will be at 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on December 8.

**Advent Penance Service**



As we begin the Advent Season, let us take time to make room for the infant and prepare our hearts. We will hold regional penance services at 6:00 p.m. on the following dates:

- Tuesday, Dec. 9,** St. Sebastian, Belle Vernon
- Wednesday, Dec. 10,** Epiphany of Our Lord, Monessen
- Thursday, Dec.11,** St. John the Baptist, Perryopolis
- Tuesday, Dec. 16,** St. Edwards, Herminie
- Wednesday, Dec.17,** Seven Dolors, Yukon
- Thursday, De. 18,** Holy Family, West Newton
- Friday, Dec.19,** St. Anne, Rostraver

**Oplatki**

We will have oplatki available in the back of the church and the office beginning November 30. It is \$2.00 per pack. There are three white and one pink for pets.



**Breakfast with Santa**

All children are invited to have **Breakfast with Santa** on **Sunday, December 14** in the Epiphany Church Hall. The event is sponsored by the Holy Name Society and the Epiphany Ladies. Breakfast begins at 9:30 a.m., and will be served until 11:30 a.m. Breakfast cost is \$5.00 for adults while all children eat for free. Santa will be available to hear Christmas wishes from the children. FCSLA will provide treat bags for all kids.



**Cookie Walk**

Save the date for the **“Holiday Cookie Walk”** on **Saturday, December 13** from 12 Noon-3 p.m. in the Epiphany Church Hall. Sponsored by the Epiphany Ladies, the Walk will feature a wide variety of ‘cookie jar cookies’ home-baked by our Epiphany bakers and friends. Participants will choose either a \$5 bag (approx. ½ pound) or a \$10 bag (approx. 1 pound) and walk the display selecting the cookies of their choice. The Walk is open to the public so share the news with family, neighbors and friends!

## Cookie Contributions

All Epiphany bakers are being asked to choose their favorite ‘holiday cookies’ (no soft icing preferred) recipes and to donate 4-5 dozen cookies per recipe to the Walk. Boxed cookie donations can be brought to the Hall on either Friday, December 12, 2025 from 9AM to 3PM or on Saturday, the day of the Walk, from 8AM-10AM. The Walk is open to the public so be sure to share the information!

## Enjoy Books

St. Sebastian Regional School is selling Enjoy books. They are \$30 and can be obtained at SSRCS Office, 815 Broad Ave., Belle Vernon. If you have any questions, call the school office at 724-929-5143.

## Volunteers Needed

### St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store



The St. Vincent store certainly is a mainstay in Monessen, as well as throughout the Mon Valley. It is good to know that so many people are being helped, all of your donations greatly appreciated!

**The Gospel calls all of us to help the poor and the needy whenever we can. The store can certainly use your help!** If you are able to volunteer a few hours a week, please know that it would be greatly appreciated. They are also in need of some men to help moving things around in the store. While our youth are home from college, if you could spare a few hours it would mean a lot to those who operate the store on a daily basis. If you have a few hours, please call the store at 724-684-5147 and speak with Kathy Steffy.

## Ascension App

To hear the bible and/or the Catechism of the Catholic Church, download **The Ascension Catholic App** to your cell phone or tablet. Fr. Mike Schmitz provides podcasts on the bible and the catechism. You can also read the information. The app is available at the Google Play Store for Android and the Apple Store for iPhone.

## Online Giving

With the hectic schedule of the holidays, make one task easy and consider online giving. It’s easy to set up and stop. While you’re away, know that your contribution is still being counted. Click the giving tab on the website.

## Advent Wreath

The blessing of the Advent Wreath is a traditional practice. It takes place on the First Sunday of Advent or the evening before. If you are planning an Advent Wreath in your home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or member of the family.



All make the Sign of the Cross as the leader says:

**Our help is in the name of the Lord.**

Response (R/) **Who made heaven and earth.**

Then the Scripture, Isaiah 9: (lines 1-2 and 5-6) or Isaiah 63 (lines 16-17 & 19) or Isaiah 64 (lines 2-7) is read:

Reader: **The word of the Lord.**

R/. **Thanks be to God.**

With hands joined, the leader says:

**Lord our God,  
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:  
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,  
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,  
he is the Savior of every nation.**

**Lord God,  
let your blessing come upon us  
as we light the candles of this wreath.  
May the wreath and its light  
be a sign of Christ’s promise to bring us salvation.  
May he come quickly and not delay.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
R/. Amen.**

The blessing may conclude with a verse from “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”:

**O come, desire of nations, bind  
in one the hearts of humankind;  
bid ev’ry sad division cease  
and be thyself our Prince of peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

## Prayer for Advent – Arise

Bless God’s Holy Name!

Prepare our hearts for Your coming, Lord.  
Awaken them from any places that have become sleepy or despondent.  
Inspire us with new visions.  
Be with us as we climb closer to You.  
Amen.

## Faith

### Catholic Life Explained Why do we Strike our Chest

Question: When we say the Penitential Act at Mass, why do we strike our chest three times?

**Answer:** Our rituals and liturgical celebrations are filled with a variety of symbols, some of which also relate to our gestures and physical postures (e.g. kneeling, sitting, processing, making the Sign of the Cross). The custom of striking our breast three times during the “I Confess” of the Penitential Act of the Mass is one of those gestures that is loaded with symbolism.

The tradition of Christian’s striking the breast (above the heart) is rooted in the image of Sacred Scripture, especially texts like Psalm 51 which speak of a “humbled contrite heart” or how God heals broken hearts, binding up our wounds (see Psalm 147:3). Early Christian writers like Saint Augustine of Hippo and Saint Jerome also refer to this custom in their writings.

Ultimately, this practice is an expression of our sorrow for those times when we have been guilty of faults and a sign that we are willing to take responsibility for our sins and failings. That we all perform this gesture together is also an act of solidarity, recognizing that none of us, regardless of where we are on our journey of faith, is without fault and the need for grace and forgiveness.

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St. Bruno Parish Invites You To:

# HOLIDAY BINGO

**Ticket includes: Bingo Packet, Bagged Lunch, Dessert Table, Beverage.**

**15+ Games \$50-\$100 Payout | \$1,500 Jackpot Series | Basket Raffle | Strip Tickets | Door Prizes**

**Sunday, December 7, 2025**  
1729 Poplar St. Greensburg, Pa 15601

**Doors Open at 12:30 PM | Lunch at 1:00 PM | Bingo Begins at 1:30 PM**

**TICKET \$25**

**Tickets will be available in the Church Office beginning November 5. Please call the Office to purchase your ticket: 724-836-0690**

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**Admission is Free • All are Welcome!**

Bishop Larry J. Kulick invites you to join him along with musicians from local parishes for our Annual Diocesan celebration of

# Lessons & Carols

The evening will nourish us with sacred Scripture and holy song as we prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Christ on the feast of Christmas.

Light reception to follow in Social Hall.

**Friday, December 5 • 7PM**  
**Blessed Sacrament Cathedral**  
300 N Main St, Greensburg, PA 15601

*Advent*  
*die Tore welt und die Thüre*  
*der Könige der Ehren einläßt*  
1