



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

Office Hours

Mon.–Thurs.: 8:30 am, - 3:00 p.m. Fri.: 8:30 a.m.– 12 Noon

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Anthony Onoko
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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!