



Sept. 4, 2022



**23rd Week
in Ordinary
Time**

Today's
reading

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, September 3 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Ron Danko by Frances & Betty Hall

Sunday, September 4 — 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM † Trimaraie & Daniele Family by Janet Daniele

10:30 AM † Louise M. Stofka by Steve & Janice (Stofka) Frank

Monday, September 5 — Labor Day

9:00 AM † Gloria, Ella & Joseph Salotti by Sharie & John & Salotti Family

Tuesday, September 6

No Mass

Wednesday, September 7

No Mass

Thursday, September 8

8:00 AM † Bronder & Zazac by Ruth Todd Family

Friday, September 9

No Mass

Saturday, September 10 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Deceased Members of Anders Family by Family

Sunday, September 11 — 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM † Pauline DeRose by Mr & Mrs Joe Gallo

10:30 AM † Patty Bisceglia by Sophia & Lawrence

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.

**The office will be closed on Labor Day,
Monday, September 5.**

Ministry Schedule — Sept. 10 & 11

| | Lector | Eucharistic Minister | Altar Server |
|------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 4:00 p.m. | D. Harkins | L. Henry | J. Smith M. Smith |
| 8:30 a.m. | J. Petritis | L. DeFelices | D. DeFelices |
| 10:30 a.m. | M. Sacco | K. Imbrescia | M. Guiliford |

Money Counters

Tuesday, September 6—Team #5 — R. Croushore

The Radical Call of Discipleship!

This week we are presented with yet another paradox where Jesus seems to preach one thing and yet expect something completely different from his followers. The entire message of Jesus is one where we are called to be for one another, we are to love without question and give of ourselves without asking for anything in return. However, today we are told that if we are to be a follower we must hate our father mother, wife children and brothers and sisters. This is a hard message to embrace no matter how we look at it.



Sometimes when we read the scriptures it is good to try and put ourselves in the place of the person who is being written about. In this case Jesus was making his way to Jerusalem knowing full well what awaited him there, people were following in droves waiting for this “coming of the Kingdom.” They had no idea what Jesus was really talking about. It most certainly had to be frustrating for Jesus to be surrounded by so many people who just didn’t get the message; they were just looking for what was in it for them.

Paul, in the second reading, is also asking something like the impossible when he is asking that a slave who had run away be embraced as a brother and given all of the privileges that a brother shares. It is a radical call to ministry, one that makes us stop and pause. This slave by law could have been tortured or even killed by his master for running away. It is an interesting thought as to what really happened. If Philemon was to show this great favor to the runaway slave, might not all of the other slaves suddenly develop an interest in baptism and pressure their master for freedom too? There is an intriguing opinion that Ignatius of Antioch, writing 50 years after Paul’s death, may have been, as Bishop of Antioch, the same person who was once the slave of Philemon!

Throughout history people have always had to make hard choices about following Christ, choices that involved sacrifice. During the early roman persecutions, many Christians renounced their faith to save their lives. Jesus gives us some difficult advice today: “You have to carry a cross if you want to follow me.” Discipleship is demanding and if we think differently, we need to look again.

We need to look at just what it is that Jesus expects from us. The Hebrew word for “hatred,” has no clear English equivalent. The word “hate” does not necessarily mean disdain or reject. It has more to do with an “order or priority.” Nothing can take priority over commitment to God. Simply put this gospel passage is about commitment. And all commitment involves some kind of cross. The question we need to ask ourselves is: what kind of commitment do we have to Christ as far as being a disciple is concerned?

None of us knows the mind of God as we are reminded in Wisdom from the first reading, but even though we don’t know God’s mind that doesn’t mean we can’t listen to God’s voice and follow that voice to the best of our abilities in life. To be a follower is to have our priorities in proper order. We need to know what is important and what is not. This will help us not only in following Christ but also in living our daily lives. Jesus is constantly inviting us to listen to him. We spend our whole lives bringing our fullest attention to what he is saying. Jesus lays out the radical demands of discipleship. Our human weakness begs us to call on God’s mercy and forgiveness when we cannot quite measure up. In all things, God will sustain us.

Ministry Call Out If you have any changes to your schedule, please let Tara know by **Wednesday, September 7**. The new schedule will run from Sept.18 — Nov.13. Call the office or email Tara at tmanderino@dioceseofgreensburg.org

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

Stewardship

Shoe Box Project



Every year St. Vincent de Paul conducts a **Shoe Box Gift Project**. Various personal items for both men and women are collected and then packed into shoe boxes. They are wrapped and shipped off to Appalachia where they are distributed to needy families. **We are going to help fill those boxes this year.** I am asking that you bring to Church **personal items** that can be used by men and women to

Church, we will collect them and pack up the boxes. If you have any empty shoe boxes, we can use them as well. There is a listing of items you may purchase in the back of the church. The list is also on the website. I ask that you **return your items to the church or office by the weekend of September 24 – 25.**

This is just one more way we share our blessings with people who have so much less. I am always grateful for your generosity with these collections!

Weekly Collection August 28

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Votive Candles: | 146 |
| Utility & Energy: | 10 |
| Accent: | 50 |
| Children & Adult Collection: | 3,165 |
| Online Collection: | 938 |
| Total Collection: | \$4,309 |
| Catholic university: | 91 |
| Total Collection: | \$4,400 |

Groups

Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Monessen #776, will meet on **Tuesday, September 20** at Epiphany Church Hall starting at 7:00 p.m. with the recitation of the rosary. Installation of Officers will be held. Members are reminded to make their reservations for the Court's 100th Anniversary celebration which will be held on Sunday, October 16. All Catholic women are welcome to attend and learn about our mission and purpose of the organization. For additional information, contact Regent Debbie Genemore at 724-708-8335.



Holy Name Sunday is next **Sunday, September 11.**

Corporate Communion will be at the 8:30 a.m. Mass. The regular monthly meeting will follow in the church hall.

Oktoberfest Dinner



Celebrate Oktoberfest! We are holding a special halupki (Or kielbassa) dinner on **Sunday, September 25.** The dinner runs from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and includes either 2 halupki **or** 2 pieces kielbassa, mashed potatoes, green beans, garlic bread, cake and a beverage. You may eat in or take out. Dinner cost is \$15.00. Please purchase tickets before Tuesday, September 20 by calling Betty Geis at 724-684-5037 or the church office at 724-684-7661.

App Issue

Some people have been having issues with the app. There are a few different issues going on. Be aware that these are not unique to Epiphany. First, for **Android users**: you can not access the website or ministry schedule. It gives you a message not available. They are working on that issue so that we can connect between the app and the website. **For Apple users**: Many of you cannot access the bulletin. The bulletin host went through an upgrade. Try clearing the browser cache and then go back to the app and access the bulletin. That should work. You may have to clear your Safari (browser) cache.

Faith

Labor Day Mass Please note that in observance of the holiday, the Mass on Monday, Sept. 5 will be at **9:00 a.m.**

Stewardship

As our readings remind us this week, we are to make sure our priorities measure up to what we call ourselves to be. To follow the demands of Jesus in our busy world requires a great deal of sacrifice. It is good for us every now and again to look at our lives and determine if we are being good "stewards" with all that God has blessed us with. Last week we talked about humility as a virtue that allows us to truly know ourselves. This week we are being challenged to choose what we want to do with our lives, and just how far we are willing to go. As we look at how well we balance our Time, Talent and Treasure we should keep these ideas in mind.

We are always looking for people to **help during the liturgy** by becoming a Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion, a Lector, Cantor, Server or Usher. Spend some time this week thinking about how you might be able to "take up your cross" and share your gifts.

Bible Study

If you have thought about participating in a Bible study/ adult ed, this is the class to take. The book and the workbook are both easy to read. It is always interesting to learn more about the things we do out of habit. Why did they start and what do they really mean?



Aptly named, the **What We Believe** study will give us a deeper understanding of why we do what we do as Catholics. The cost of the six week program is \$30. This includes the book, workbook and timeline chart as well as one year of online access. We begin on **Monday, Sept. 19 at 6:30 p.m.** Registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 9. If you have any questions, please call the office at 724-684-7661.

Catholic Men's Retreat

The Diocese of Greensburg Men's Ministry Team is planning a Catholic Men's Retreat from **7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 30, until 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 1 at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg.** Bishop Larry J. Kulick will celebrate a closing Mass for all participants. For those staying both days, the cost is \$100 for a single room, \$80 for a double room, with all meals included. There are also options for those not staying overnight or only attending one day. High school and college students receive a registration discount, and financial assistance is available. For more information, contact Jim Pencola at 724-726-5315 or Dan Lieberum at 724-787-1797. **Registration is due by Thursday, Sept. 15.**

Festival Wrap Up

We have the final figures for our Festival for this year! Although we did have a little problem with the weather, and the prices for everything were up, I think we did very well. In spite of the rain, we took in a total of **\$60,387.85** from the festival, and other donations. The combined expenses for the festival totaled **\$33,635.96**. This leaves us with a total profit of: **\$26,751.89!**

Councils Meeting

Pastoral / Finance council meeting

On Monday, **September 12 at 6:30 p.m.** we will have a meeting of both the Pastoral and Finance Councils. The meeting will be held in the church hall. Please mark your calendars for this meeting.