

4th Sunday OF ADVENT

December 20, 2020



A PENNSYLVANIA CHARITABLE TRUST



LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 19

4:00 PM † Mary Ann Varga by Joel Varga

Sunday, December 20

8:30 AM † Mary & James Zimmaro by Ken & Linda Zimmaro

10:30 AM † Charles Sungala by Wife, Children & Grandchildren

Monday, December 21

8:00 AM † Mary Sowko by Rose Sowko

Tuesday, December 22

8:00 AM † Mary & Sil Garofala by Family

Wednesday, December 23

No Mass

Thursday, December 24 — Christmas Eve

4:00 PM Parish Family

9:00 PM Parish Family

Friday, December 25 — Christmas Day

10:00 AM Parish Family

Saturday, December 26

4:00 PM John B. Harhai by Wife, Dolores & Harhai Family

Sunday, December 27

8:30 AM Angela Lancas 100th birthday & in memory of John and Mark Lancas by Family

10:30 AM 65th Wedding Anniversary Elise & Franklin Silko by Family

Parish Office:

**44 PENNSYLVANIA BLVD
MONESSEN, PA 15062**

Parish Office: 724-684-7661 • **Fax:** 724-684-8981

Church Hall: 724-684-5512

Religious Education: 724-929-9300

www.eolparish.com • 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. 24 & 25

Time	Lector	Eucharistic Minister
4:00 p.m.	D. Harkins	J. Dudas
9:00 p.m.	G. Pesi	S. Beneccio
10:00 a.m.	W. Vlasic	T. Billick

Ministry Schedule — Dec. 26 & 27

Time	Lector	Eucharistic Minister
4:00 p.m.	B. DuBreucq	A. Pastella
8:30 a.m.	F. Petrosky	J. Todd
10:30 a.m.	W. Vlasic	S. Beneccio

Money Counters

Monday, December 21 —Team #3—K. Byron

Thinking small doesn't help!

Did you ever notice how often in life we think small? We concern ourselves with the immediate needs and concerns and often fail to open ourselves to the much bigger picture. During these last few days before Christmas, I am sure that you are all very busy, and isn't it



funny how much emphasis we all put on one day! However, this day simply cannot be captured in just twenty-four hours, even though our planning is. On this last Sunday of Advent we are shown how absolute God's goodness is. Our liturgy presents us with a rich history of the promise that was made to David about his house and the fact that it would last throughout the ages. Even though David did not comprehend what God was speaking about, history certainly unveils the story for us.

Samuel in our first reading shows us a King David who is feeling guilty because he lives in a fine house built of cedar while the Lord lives in a tent. Through Nathan, God promises David that his house will live forever. I am sure that King David was thinking "small" and imagining a house built of brick and mortar having no concept of what forever really meant. This is one of the key passages of the Hebrew Scriptures for it guarantees that a descendant of David would lead the Israelites. We have the hindsight of knowing that God was speaking of a spiritual home, a religious dynasty that exists in the hearts of believers. What we are asked to embrace from this reading is God's presence in the realms of our hearts, and it is our spirit that makes God's reign last forever.

Advent teaches us that it is always God who works marvels in us. It does not depend on our own worth, status, or role in society. As Gabriel tells Mary, it is the power of the Holy Spirit that will make it possible for her to be the mother of the son of God. It is the might of the Most High that will overshadow her and make her the worthy vehicle of God's grace.

We would all do well to recognize that the same Spirit that filled Mary with the miracle of Jesus' birth lives in each of our hearts. The reality of God present in human flesh, transcends a purely earthly kingdom, and yet, we cannot avoid the reality that we live in a world that has been too little changed by that fact. Perhaps that is because we feel we know who Jesus really is; so we sit back and wait for him to save us. Salvation however does not occur in a vacuum. It requires human involvement from all who claim that Jesus is savior.

The whole of Advent, the improbability of Mary being chosen to bear God's son, this Eucharist, all proclaim that we humans do make a difference. They all celebrate the willingness of Mary as well as Jesus to do the will of God and inaugurate his new kingdom. Unless we are equally willing, that kingdom will always remain outside our grasp. Thinking "small" takes care of our immediate needs, it is when we are able to open ourselves up and look at the "big" picture we can become aware of the goodness of God. Like King David, our visions are often limited, but like Mary we must be willing to move beyond our own limitations and open our hearts to the wonder of God by saying yes.

Due to the bulletin deadline, the collection will be listed in next week's bulletin.



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

A Message of Christmas Joy



As the parish family of The Epiphany of Our Lord, we celebrate the Birth of Jesus once again, and looking back over the past year, we have a great many things to be thankful for. I am grateful to all of you for the many ways that you have given of yourselves to one another, to our

community and to our church. We have even shared the joy of our blessings with many people around the world and for that we should be grateful. As a community of God's people we have prayed together which brings God's presence to each one of us.

As you celebrate this Christmas (to the best of your ability) with those who are in your life, be aware of the gifts that count the most for they are worth more than any material possession or wealth. When we are able to open our hearts to one another and share who we are from within, we share what the joy of Christmas is all about. If you are able, even for a little minute, try to escape all of the trappings that this season puts upon us and open yourself to the silence of what the real gift is all about. As we become more aware of what Christ can be for us, we are better prepared to be that presence to those in our world. As individuals as well as a parish family, we ought to look and appreciate who God made us to be and what our God has blessed us with. Only then can the joy of this season bring the real message of Peace on Earth and Good Will to all. My prayer for you all is that this Season may touch your hearts with the gentle presence of Christ's love, and that you may find the reserve to do the same to others.

A Blessed Christmas to you all!



Daily Readings

Readings for the week of December 20

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66

Thursday: *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79

Friday: The Nativity of the Lord— Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25. *Night:* Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14. *Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20. *Day:* Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col

Christmas Schedule

Just as a reminder our Christmas Mass times will be: **4:00 pm and 9:00 pm. On Christmas Eve, and 10:00 am on Christmas day.** Please be aware that we are enforcing social distancing and the wearing of a mask. We are limited as to the number of people that can be in the church so there will be an overflow in the church hall where the Mass will be live-streamed. We will also be taping and airing the 4:00 pm Mass.

COVID 19....

With the increase of people affected by COVID it is so important that we are all vigilant about how we celebrate the holidays. Sometimes we allow ourselves to get all caught up in the sentimentality of what Christmas is that we forget about the lingering dangers of this pandemic. We have all been encouraged to "stay at home" right now not only for our safety but also the safety of the people around us. If you are vulnerable in any way to the perils of this pandemic, please stay at home.

There are plenty of opportunities to watch Mass on television. The Diocese will be airing Christmas Day Mass from the Cathedral on channel 11 at Noon on Christmas Day. On PCNC, the Pittsburgh Cable News Channel, Christmas Eve Vigil Mass will air at 2:00 p.m. and on Christmas Day, Mass will be at 10:00 a.m.

It is only one day out of the year and if we keep someone safe, it is well worth it!



Christmas Wafers

The Oplatky or Christmas Wafers are **available in the back of the church.** The wafers are packaged with 4 individual wafers. The cost for a packet is \$3.00. You may also pick them up at **the office** during the week.

Decorating for Christmas

We will be decorating the Church on **Tuesday, December 22** starting at 5:00 p.m. Anyone who would like to help is most welcome to come and join in.

Stewardship

Angel Tree

I would like to thank everyone who took part in our Angel Tree this year. Once again, you all certainly were generous in your response. Please know that because of your goodness many children have benefited from your gifts. Even though this year will certainly be a different kind of Christmas, know you certainly warmed the hearts of many children in our community.

Children & Family Services Appeal Collection

As you are aware, every year the **second collection at all**



Christmas Masses has been for those people living within our own diocese who are less fortunate. This collection is titled the "Children and Family Services Appeal." Your support can change the future of an individual, a family or a child through the good work of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg.

Artwork contest entries being accepted

Entries are being accepted for the 2020-21 **Missionary Childhood Association National Christmas Artwork Contest.** The contest is open to young Catholics in grades K-8. Entries must be postmarked or received by your local mission office or online at mcaartcontest.missio.org by no later than Jan. 31, 2021. Entries also may be mailed to MCA Artwork Contest, 70 West 36th St. 8th floor, New York, NY, 10018.