



December 27, 2020



A PENNSYLVANIA CHARITABLE TRUST

# THE HOLY FAMILY

“For my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.”

- Lk 2:30-31



## LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

### 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

### Monday, December 28

8:00 AM † Campana & Garofalo Families by Family

### Tuesday, December 29

8:00 AM † Thomas Powlowsky by Wife, Margaret Powlowsky

### Wednesday, December 30

No Mass

### Thursday, December 31

4:00 PM † Anthony F. Manderino II by Tara & Sons

### Friday, January 1—Solemnity of Mary

9:00 AM † Louis Laneave by Joe & Mary Ann Gallo

### Saturday, January 2

4:00 PM † Walter & Stella Anders by sons

### Sunday, January 3

8:30 AM † Metro Petrosky, Jr. by Flo Petrosky

10:30 AM † Will Harris by Ridsy Calderone & Emma Kotch

*The Office will be closed on New Year's Day.*

#### 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.**

#### Ministry Schedule — Dec. 31 & Jan. 1

Time	Lector	Eucharistic Minister
4:00 p.m.	B. DuBreucq	J. Elias
9:00 a.m.	J. Petritis	Volunteer

#### Ministry Schedule — Jan. 2 & 3

Time	Lector	Eucharistic Minister
4:00 p.m.	S. Surdyn	J. Dudas
8:30 a.m.	K. Miller	N. Mazzie
10:30 a.m.	P. Fantauzzi	K. Imbrescia

#### Money Counters

**Monday, December 28** —Team #4—J. Petritis

## We are all Holy Families!

Our celebration this week end concentrates on the “Holiness” of our families. Holiness is not a misty-eyed, otherworldly mode of living. Rather it is a realistic engagement in the difficulties, struggles, and tensions of human life and relating.



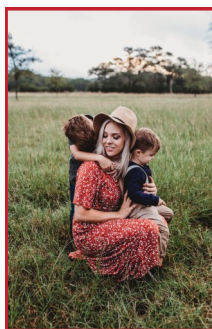
Our own modern families are like the Holy Family in that, as they did, we too all face challenges in responding to God faithfully and obediently. The holiness of a family is not dependent upon perfection or an easy road. As Mary and Joseph showed us, holiness is dependent on faithfulness and obedience to God’s message. What makes Jesus, Mary, and Joseph a holy family is their faithful, obedient response to God’s message. Our families (and the family of the church) are also holy in our responding faithfully to God’s will for us.

Today it is difficult to define what a family should be; in fact I believe that family life today is beyond defining. None of us can be completely free from assumptions about families and a “well intended” list of family values that we should follow. Sometimes these values are sincere but sometime they are cynical. When we look at the holy family we do not look at them for the sociological model that they provide, rather they become a model of faith for us. So, the issue on this day is not that we should try to read into this feast a proposal for how to live as a family, but how each of us should remain open and obedient to the word of God.

We spend a lot of time in life looking around and seeing what we want in life. Every one of us is guilty of making so many “comparisons” to what others have or how they live. In the process we are completely missing out on what we have. Family life in our society today has gone through so many drastic changes that none of us fit very well into a defined role, and I don’t think that is such a bad thing. If we are honest with each other, we all live with some sort of dysfunction in life, there is no such thing as a perfect family.

Today we are reminded that we ought to be grateful for the people we have in life and most especially our families. Whether we are a traditional family or a single parent family, whether we have biological or adopted or foster children or no children, whether we live in an expensive home or a subsidized rental unit makes no difference for living as a holy family. What does make a difference is hearing God’s message and doing God’s will. Hearing God’s message and responding to God’s will made the Holy Family holy, it makes our families holy, too!

This is what living Christ’s message is all about: responding to both hardships and God’s wonderful gifts of grace with fidelity and obedience. Sometimes it is the very hardships that help us put our priorities straight and realize how dependent on our loving God we really are.



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

**With Deepest Sympathy** — Condolences are extended to the families of EUGEN MAISANO, MARY COPE AND THOMAS FEEHAN. May God grant them eternal rest, and comfort to their families. We commend their souls to rest in the peace of Christ.

## Another Blessed Christmas!

Once again this year as I look back over the season of Advent and Christmas it is wonderful to be able to recognize the many blessings of God’s love that we have been given. However, the Virus has certainly had an effect on all of us. In celebrating the feast of the Holy Family this week end, it is easy to recognize that as a parish we do live like the “Holy Family,” in God’s grace and love, sharing the good right along with the bad! The generosity of all our parishioners is overwhelming. Fr. Joel and I cannot begin to thank you enough for the many gifts and cards that you have given; we are both humbled and blessed!

As we watch the news on television or read it in the newspapers we are always shown how people don’t seem to care what happens around them. The stories of how people ignore the hardships of others and not want to get involved are sometimes the only news we hear. However, as I look at what wonderful and kind people that make up our parish, this is hardly the truth. Your generosity of not only your treasure, but also of your time and talent speak for themselves. It is good to clearly see that we do get the message Jesus was born to teach us!

I would like to recognize and thank you all for what you do for your church. During this busy time of the year the way you shared your precious time speaks so well of God’s grace in our midst.

Even with the effects of COVID we still recognized and celebrated the Birth of Jesus! I am grateful to everyone who gave of their time to make these celebrations memorable.



### Daily Readings

#### Readings for the week of December 27



**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 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

**Monday:** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

**Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18

**Friday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

**Saturday:** 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28

**Next Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

### Artwork Contest

#### 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](http://mcaartcontest.missio.org) by no later than Jan. 31, 2021. Entries also may be mailed to MCA Artwork Contest, 70 West 36<sup>th</sup> St. 8th floor, New York, NY, 10018.

### New Year’s Day

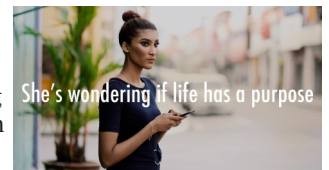
On Friday we will celebrate Mary the Mother of God. We will celebrate mass at **4:00 PM** on Thursday and **9:00 AM** on New Year’s Day. Since we are starting a new year with the anticipation that 2021 will bring much joy and hope, we still have the realities of life to prepare for. Tax season will be right around the corner so we will be preparing your contribution statements.

If you would like a copy of one you can call us at the office.

### Formed

If you haven’t already taken advantage of the **Free subscription to FORMED**, now is a good time to do so. In a year where so many things have been cancelled, we’re pleased to announce that through the Diocese, we have a **FREE** year subscription to FORMED. It’s a platform where parishioners are able to access a variety of Catholic content: Catholic movies, ebooks, audio dramas, youth and children’s programming and Bible Studies. Formed was started by the Augustine Institute. This year, the subscription for our parishioners will be **FREE**. Go to: [formed.org](http://formed.org), Click sign up, Click on “I belong to a Parish or Organization”, Type in zip code for Monessen (Epiphany of Our Lord Parish will come up). Next: Create a new account (your name and email). You’re in! The year subscription is already in progress, so take advantage of this great resource. It can be accessed through your **computer, phone or tablet**. It is also available through the **Roku, Amazon Fire TV, and Apple TV**.

A great series to start off the new year with is The Search. This video-based program removes barriers to the Gospel by engaging life’s big questions beginning with *What Do You Seek?* Tune in.



### Stewardship

#### Blood Drive

We will hold a Blood Drive at the church hall on **Monday, January 11 from 1:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** Giving blood is something that costs you little and gives the recipient much! There is a constant need for regular blood supply because blood can be stored for only a limited time before use. Regular blood donations by a sufficient number of healthy people are needed to ensure that safe blood will be available whenever and wherever it is needed. If you are willing to participate **call the Red Cross at 800-RED-CROSS (800-733-2767) or schedule a time online at [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org)** and enter: EpiphanyMonessen.

#### Weekly Collection Dec. 13

Votive Candles:	96
Utility & Energy:	204
Accent:	83
Immaculate Conception	500
St. Lucy	291
Advent Folder:	160
Christmas Flowers:	542
Christmas:	1,115
Solemnity of Mary	10
Cinnamon Roll Sale	
Donation	104
Children & Adult	
Collection:	\$5,799
Online Collection:	949
<b>Total Collection:</b>	<b>\$9,853</b>
Children & Family	115
Eastern Europe	5
<b>Total Collection:</b>	<b>\$9,973</b>



*Fr. Joel and I both wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year!*

2021