

THE *Epiphany* OF OUR Lord

ROMAN
CATHOLIC
CHURCH



A PENNSYLVANIA CHARITABLE TRUST
A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG

DECEMBER 14, 2014 • THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

618 KNOX AVE • MONESSEN, PA 15062

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

Church Hall: 724-684-9199 • **Chapel Hall:** 724-684-5512

Religious Education: 724-930-8504

Parish Website: www.eolparish.weebly.com

PARISH STAFF

Pastor Reverend Michael J. Crookston
MCrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org
Music Director Toni Lynn Salvino
Parish Secretary Evelyn Winn
Bulletin/Faith Formation Secretary Darleen Koury
Maintenance Patrick Frederick

OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Thursday 8:30 am–12 pm & 1 pm–3:30 pm
Friday 8:30 am–1:00 pm

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We are the Epiphany of Our Lord Roman Catholic Church;
we celebrate a long and diverse presence in Monessen,
reflecting the true meaning of Epiphany,
our vision is to become a beacon of hope
through education, spiritual formation and Liturgical functions;
proclaiming and living the Gospel Justice of Jesus Christ.

We show responsibility to one another through active
participation, stewardship and evangelization,
moving forward with the Spirit of the living God.
It is our Faith that unites us as one to celebrate the Eucharist,
the Source and Summit of our Catholic Traditions.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 4:00 pm (*Main Church*)
Sunday: 8:30 am (*Chapel Site*);
10:30 am (*Main Church*)
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday &
Friday: 8:00 am (*Main Church*)
Wednesday: NO MASS

RECONCILIATION

Saturday at 11:00 am or you may call
the office to make an appointment.

BAPTISM

We baptize during all Masses. Parents
are required to attend a Pre-Baptism
session prior to the Baptism. Please
call the office for more information.

MARRIAGE

Arrangements must be made at
least six months in advance.

MINISTRY OF THE SICK

If you know of anyone who is sick
and cannot get to Mass, and they wish
to receive the Eucharist, please call
the office so arrangements can be
made.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Any article for the bulletin must be
in the office by Monday noon.

MASS INTENTIONS—MAIN CHURCH

Saturday, December 13—Vigil
4:00 pm +Kenny McGee by Phil Mikan
Sunday, December 14—Third Sunday of Advent
10:30 am +Mary Sowko by Rosemary
Monday, December 15
8:00 am +Evelyn Kowell by daughter, Paula
Tuesday, December 16
8:00 am +Albert Salaske by Leanne Halinka
Wednesday, December 17
No Mass
Thursday, December 18
8:00 am +Pete Minniti, Jr. by Bob & Beverly Mascetta
7:00 pm Advent Penance Service
Church of St. Anne, Rostraver
Friday, December 19
8:00 am +Winn & Arabia Families by Family
Saturday, December 20—Vigil
4:00 pm +Charles Sungala by Wife, Children & Grandchildren
Sunday, December 21— Fourth Sunday of Advent
10:30 am +Drew Hotochin & Robert A. Hotochin by Carol Voelker & Elizabeth Mazur

CHAPEL

Sunday, December 14—Third Sunday of Advent
8:30 am +Fr. Michael Bucci by Antoinetta Fiorillo
Sunday, December 21—Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:30 am +Mary & James Zimmaro by Kenny & Linda

Last Sunday's Offerings—\$9,761.03
Immaculate Conception Offerings—\$1,014.00

Perogies

Remember that we are selling homemade perogies here at the church. They come packaged with two dozen in a bag for \$14.00. If you would like some, just stop by the office.

OPLATKY—Christmas wafers (Oplatky) are available in the vestibules of the church and chapel and at the office. The donation is \$3.00 for a packet containing four individual wafers.

Giving Tree

I want to once again thank all of our parishioners for their generosity with the giving tree project this year. It is an amazing sight to see all of those gifts on the altar! Trust me when I say that you have made Christmas for many little children a lot brighter, and for that we all need to be grateful.

Ministry Schedule—Saturday, Dec. 20 & Sunday, Dec. 21, 2014

<u>Time</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Eucharistic Minister</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
4:00 pm	S. Stein	L. & J. Dudas B. Mandarino D. Mandarino	K. Chavez B. Rizzuto
8:30 am	B. Hughes, Jr.	W. White S. & N. Campus	M. & M. Blatnik
10:30 am	J. Sepesky	A. Frolo R. Sassak M. Gigliotti M. Hasch	T. Blatnik M. Germinario

Money Counters - Monday, December 15, 2014

V. Saunders—Finance Council Member
W. Anders, G. Ezzo, P. Jackson



**Christmas Mass
Schedule**

The schedule for Masses on Christmas will be 4:00 pm on Christmas Eve, Midnight Mass and 10:00 am Mass on Christmas Day (at the chapel). Please make a note that there will be only one Mass on Christmas Day.

Regional Advent Penance Services

This week our Penance service will be held on Thursday the 18th at St. Anne's in Rostraver. The last service will be next Monday on the 22nd at St. Sebastian's in Belle Vernon.

Children's celebration of the Birth of Jesus

Next Sunday, during the 10:30 liturgy, our children will be sharing with us the "Christmas Story." They will perform this vignette during the liturgy. Therefore be advised that the 10:30 liturgy will be a little longer. We have over 30 children who will take part in this play which I think is a wonderful gift that they are giving to us all.



I want to thank Patty Alcorn for being the brains behind this production and all of the parents who have been wonderful with their time in helping. Immediately following the liturgy we invite you all downstairs for refreshments and there just might be a visit from a very special guest.

Little Family Christmas

On January the 4th we will celebrate the feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord. Because this is the feast day of our parish, we are planning a gathering. We are going to celebrate "A Little Family Christmas." It will be a "Pot-Luck or Covered dish" dinner. There will be more information about this next week. Just mark the date on your calendar; I hope that you will all be able to come and spend some time with your Parish Family.

Blessing of the Infant Jesus'



It has been suggested that we do a blessing of the Baby Jesus statues that will be used in the Nativity Sets at your homes. So, next week during the 10:30 liturgy we will bless the statues of Baby Jesus for your Christmas Crèche. So, bring your Baby Jesus to church at we will bless them!

Who are you?

In our society we tend to identify ourselves by what we do, for example: I am a teacher, a father or mother, I am a plumber or a coal miner a doctor or a lawyer. We also make the fateful error of measuring our worth by how much money we have or things we have accumulated. Rarely are we asked the question: Who are you? This is what John the Baptist is being asked today. If we know and identify who we are, then like John, we also are keenly aware as to whom we are not. The Gospel today reminds us that what we do must flow from our understanding of who we are, and that must be rooted in our Baptismal relationship to the Lord. We need to be as clear about who we are and who we are not as was John the Baptist.

John was one who pointed to the treasure of who Jesus was and testified as to what Jesus was about. He pointed us to a reality that would unfold as we understand the message that Jesus brought to our earth. It takes a lot of strength to point one in the right direction, and often we suffer rejection when we do. The “pointers” in life are all of those people who cry out to us to make straight the crooked paths of our lives.

The Third Sunday of Advent has traditionally been known as Gaudete Sunday, which means Rejoice! In order for us to appreciate what our liturgy is asking us to rejoice over, we need to understand what is being told to us. Isaiah speaks to a people who have been held in bondage for a number of years and are now being set free. He speaks to all people who have had the experience and joy of being liberated. You and I would find it hard to experience this, since we probably have not been subject to being totally under the evil grasp of another; or have we? When we look back over our countries past, there have been many periods where people have been held in bondage in one way or another. Even today, our nation is plagued with prejudice, which affects a multitude of people. It is hard to believe that a country with such noble sentiments expressed in its declarations of freedom would allow for the mistreatment of such a large section of its citizens. Imagine if the poor of the world in our own time heard an announcement like this: your property, your homes, and your businesses stolen by multi-national corporations are returned to you. Your pensions for old age, squandered by the greed of a few corporate heads, will be restored. Only when we think in these terms will this reading mean anything to us. Can you imagine what it would mean to experience a year of freedom that would liberate the oppressed and impoverished people? This is why we are called to rejoice. The writings of Isaiah set the blueprint for Jesus’ ministry, a message of peace and justice in a world that so desperately needs to hear the cry of the poor.

Like John, we are all pointers. By virtue of our Baptism we have all been called by God to go into our world and point others in the direction Jesus asks us to go; to be aware of who we are and what our responsibilities to one another are. The call to social justice is never over. We all need people in our lives that help us to deepen our faith and convictions, and lead us to a greater appreciation of the One who saves us.

Mass Book

The Mass book is now open for 2015! Remember that we are only able to take two masses per family and only one week-end. If you have any questions, please give us a call at the office.

Epiphany Ladies News:

This is the last call for the Enjoy Books. These books make great Christmas gifts for someone that is hard to buy for. If you are interested in purchasing one you can call Betty Geis at 724-684-5037. This is the gift that keeps on giving all year long!

CAPS OF LOVE CAMPAIGN: The Epiphany Ladies, CD of A and CBPW are joining the National Council of Catholic Women to collect **HARD PLASTIC CAPS**. Recycling plastic caps raises money to buy wheelchairs for disabled children. So, save your caps and place them in the containers which you will find in the back of the Church as well as the chapel.

CELEBRATING HIS BIRTH

A Service of Lessons and Carols

Featuring the Voices of Area Churches
sponsored by the Belle Vernon Area Ministerium
and presented at Saint Sebastian Church
today, Sunday, December 14, 2014—6:30 p.m.
A reception will follow in St. Sebastian Parish Hall.

Youth Ministry—Today, December 14

A New Church Year! Time for a new youth gathering.

7th—12th grades, if you signed-up, don't forget to come to St. Sebastian Parish Center at 12:05 pm until 1:30 pm for food and games.



Getting “Real” About Drugs

Reality Tour (RT) is a national parent and child drug education and prevention program. For more information, 724-797-0955 or email bellevnonarearealitytour.org.

Eternal Rest—Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently: CALADO DiMASCIO. We commend his soul to rest in the peace of Christ.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23;

Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

Thursday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Saturday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29;

Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38