

THE *Epiphany* OF OUR Lord

ROMAN
CATHOLIC
CHURCH



A PENNSYLVANIA CHARITABLE TRUST
A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG

DECEMBER 7, 2014 • SECOND 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 6—Vigil
4:00 pm +Stacy Maione by Mike Kelemen

Sunday, December 7—Second Sunday of Advent
10:30 am +Nick & Irene Mascetta by daughter, Marilyn

Monday, December 8—Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
8:00 am +Pierre Luti by Wayne & Kathy Vlasic
12:00 Noon +Jack Centanni by Virginia Quattro

Tuesday, December 9—St. Juan Diego Cuauhtatoatzin
8:00 am +Henry Pardus by wife, Cecilia & Family
7:00 pm Advent Penance Service
Holy Family Church, West Newton

Wednesday, December 10
No Mass

Thursday, December 11—Pope St. Damasus I
8:00 am +Chris Campana by M/M Al Protin
7:00 pm Advent Penance Service
St. John the Baptist, Perryopolis

Friday, December 12—Our Lady of Guadalupe
8:00 am +In Honor of St. Lucy

Saturday, December 13—Vigil
2:00 pm Wedding: Maria Gigliotti & Phillip Tokar
4:00 pm +Kenny McGee by Phil Mikan

Sunday, December 14—Third Sunday of Advent
10:30 am +Mary Sowko by Rosemary

CHAPEL

Sunday, December 7—Second Sunday of Advent
8:30 am +Fr. Michael Bucci by Greg & Toni Bucci

Sunday, December 14—Third Sunday of Advent
8:30 am +Fr. Michael Bucci by Antoinetta Fiorillo

Sunday Offerings for Nov. 22/23—\$6,926.92
Sunday Offerings for Nov. 29/30—\$6,775.37

ATTENTION ALL MINISTERS

The Winter/Spring schedule for Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Altar Servers will be prepared next week. Please call the Parish Office with your preferences or contact Darleen Koury (dkoury@dioceseofgreensburg.org) by today, Sunday, December 7, if you will not be available from January 1 thru March 29. The schedule for Christmas, Easter, and Holydays will be announced in the bulletin.

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.

Ministry Schedule—Saturday, Dec. 13 & Sunday, Dec. 14, 2014

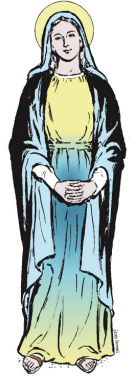
Time	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Servers
4:00 pm	G. Pesì	L. Stein L. Henry R. & A. Kozar	A. & A. Mauro
8:30 am	L. Micenko	J. Elias J. Petritis K. Imbrescia	S. Billy B. Speicher
10:30 am	C. Manderino	T. Mazzei S. McCarthy P. Fantauzzi L. Manderino	S. & K. DeCurtis

Money Counters - Monday, December 8, 2014
P. Pettko—Finance Council Member
R. Aguilar, R. Sowko, H. Veschio

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Feast of the Immaculate Conception
I would just like to remind you that on Monday December the 8th we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception which is a Holy Day of Obligation. We will celebrate liturgy at 8:00 am and at Noon.

Additional Masses at area churches are:
Church of Saint Anne, Rostraver at 8:00 am & 7:00 pm.
St. Sebastian Church, Belle Vernon at 9:30 am & 6:00 pm



Christmas Program

Just a reminder, that on the 21st of December at the 10:30 liturgy we will have a Christmas Program starring our children. After mass there will be a reception downstairs and we just might have a visit from Santa! I will have more information on this in the coming weeks.

Advent Evening of Recollection

An Advent evening of recollection sponsored by the Greensburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will be held Thursday evening December 11, at St. Emma's Monastery in Greensburg. The cost is \$22.00 per person and you can call for reservations at: 724-834-3060 by Monday December 8.

Giving Tree—Remember that if you took a tag for the "giving Tree" this year you should have your gifts back to us by next weekend, December 13/14. Remember to attach your tag securely onto the package so that we can be sure to get it to the right child. The gift you are giving will certainly bring much joy to some child, thank you for your generosity!

Celebrating His Birth A Service of Lessons and Carols

This ecumenical event features the voices of the Belle Vernon Area Churches sponsored by the Belle Vernon Area Ministry and presented at St. Sebastian's next Sunday, December 14, at 6:30 p.m. A reception will follow in St. Sebastian's Parish Hall.

Regional Advent Penance Services

This week we will begin our Penance services for our region. On Tuesday we will be at Holy Family in West Newton and then on Thursday the service will be at St. John's in Perryopolis. Both of these services will begin at 7:00 pm.

Holy Name Sunday

Next Sunday, December 14, is Holy Name Sunday. Corporate Communion will be at the 8:30 a.m. Mass at the Chapel. The regular monthly meeting will follow the Mass in the Chapel Social Hall. Coffee and doughnuts will be served.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9, 10-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47.
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Eternal Rest—Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently: *HILDA VAN KULICH*. We commend her soul to rest in the peace of Christ.

Encountering Jesus

We have all heard the stories of Advent over and over again, and yet even though they were written so very long ago, the history that we hear does not only apply to past events. The pains and frustrations of people so very long ago are the same pains and frustrations we feel every day, even though the events of history are different. It is ironic how we as people never seem to change or learn from the past, we just keep doing the same things and making the same mistakes over and over again.

Advent offers to each of us an opportunity just to sit back and become aware of life as we are living it. Our days are all filled with many tasks, and most of the things we do, we do without much thought. We go through our “routines” without really thinking about what we are doing. Then there are all of those chores we just can’t seem to get started with. For many of our tasks in life it is the beginning that is most difficult, just getting started. Once we begin, energy and stamina seem to kick in and we get finished. Our gospel for this week opens with the words: “The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.” We are told about a messenger who would get things ready, but is this really the beginning? The real beginning is when the people go out and encounter John, and as the gospel unfolds the people go out and encounter Jesus. This is the beginning we all need to focus on. How do we encounter this Jesus the Son of God? Advent then becomes the many ways that we prepare for these encounters.

We do not know a lot about John but we certainly learn a lot from his message. One thing is very clear and that is His ministry was not about himself but about the “one mightier than I (who) is coming after me.” Everything that John did, pointed to the coming of Jesus. He proclaimed repentance, prepared for Jesus and died, this was the pattern of his life. It should also be the pattern for our own lives: proclaiming the gospel of repentance, prepare for Christ’s many comings and to die to ourselves daily. By our Christian living we not only point to Christ, but we also make present the Christ who dwells in us. The challenge of gospel living is the beginning – getting started.

During this second week of Advent we are called upon to reflect over our lives. What have we learned from the past, how have we grown because of it? How have we dealt with our mistakes, faults and weaknesses? Do we follow the wisdom of scripture and treat people with compassion and mercy pointing them to Christ? This is what the season is all about, getting ready for our many encounters with Jesus.

The baptism of repentance proclaimed by John is just the beginning; repentance leads to baptism “with the Holy Spirit” through which we are empowered for mission, and the mission calls us to participate with Christ in bringing about “new heavens and a new earth.” Through our own baptism we participate in the life and ministry of Jesus. The way that we live our lives does make a difference. By the goodness of our lives we announce that Christ has come and brought us salvation.

Calendars Available—Every year we are privileged to hand out calendars that have been donated by local businesses. It is because of their goodness and generosity that these calendars are made available to our parishioners. I would like to thank: **JANOSIK’S PHARMACY, DALFONSO – BILICK FUNERAL HOME, FRANKS SERVICE GARAGE and THE ROBERT A. BILICK FUNERAL HOME** for once again making this possible.

TURKEY BINGO THANK YOU—The Epiphany Ladies would like to thank all those helped to make the Turkey Bingo a success. The success was a result of many volunteers, members and youth, working together. Special thanks to all who donated prizes and to those who attended and played Bingo. Your support of this project was greatly appreciated.

Epiphany Ladies News:

This Sunday December 7th, we will celebrate our Christmas party at the New Alpine Club. Reservations are required and the festivities will begin at 2:00 pm.

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.

A New Church Year! Time for a new youth gathering. 7th-12th grades, come join us in the St. Sebastian Parish Center at 12:05 pm (right after the 11 am Mass at St. Sebastian’s) until 1:30 pm for food and games.

Parents/Youth: we are asking everyone to bring a food of your choice for everyone to share. To coordinate this, please contact the youth minister, Christopher Manderino through the Faith Formation office (724-930-8504) or email him at cmanderino@gmail.com to coordinate food, and to let us know how many of you are coming (in the case of siblings or other non-parishioner friends).

Questions and Answers

This week there were two questions in the box. One of them asks if the Anglican Church is in communion with Rome. The answer to this is no. They have no connection with the Roman Church. When the reformation occurred in the 1500’s the Church of England split off from the Roman Catholic Church and the Anglican Church is a spin off from this.

The second question asks why the Catholic Accent never seems to put our functions in the paper. This is a little more involved than a yes or no. First of all the Accent covers our entire Diocese which is four counties. Although they try to please every parish, it is impossible to do so. They will mention activities like our festival in one article at the beginning of the season, but they do not specifically emphasize any particular festival. They will mention our schedule of fish fries during lent and any other devotion that we want advertised, such as the TAIZE PRAYER we have on Monday evenings during Lent. I think that over the past year, we as a parish got a lot of attention from the Accent. All we can do is ask and see if they are able to come down. They did a wonderful coverage of our float that was in the Veterans Parade!

Knights of Columbus Sausage Sale—Orders may be picked up on December 9th & 10th at the Chapel Hall.