

THE *Epiphany* OF OUR Lord

ROMAN
CATHOLIC
CHURCH



A PENNSYLVANIA CHARITABLE TRUST
A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 6, 2015

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 pm
Friday 8:30 am–12:00 Noon

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 FOR THE WEEK

MAIN CHURCH

Saturday, December 5—Vigil
4:00 pm +Norman Gilotty by Robert & Inez Gilotty

Sunday, December 6—Second Sunday of Advent
10:30 am +Nick, Irene, & Nick, JR. Mascetta by Bob & Bev Mascetta

Monday, December 7—St. Ambrose
8:00 am +Anthony Mascetta by Wife & Children

Tuesday, December 8—Immaculate Conception
8:00 am +Bruna Campus by Jeff & Leanne Pompania
12:00 pm +Brad Denman by Becca, Frankie & Bella Rizutto

Wednesday, December 9—St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin
No Mass Today

Thursday, December 10
8:00 am +Stacy Maione by Janice & Steve Wojtowich
7:00 pm Advent Penance Service
Holy Family Church, West Newton

Friday, December 11—Pope St. Damasus I
8:00 am +Romeo Crisi by Family

Saturday, December 12—Vigil
4:00 pm +Nazareth & Susan Victoria by Jim & Carol Sepesky Family

Sunday, December 13—Third Sunday of Advent
10:30 am +Joseph Mancini by Wife Adina & Family

CHAPEL

Sunday, December 6—Second Sunday of Advent
8:30 am +Vizza & Nicksich Family by Family

Sunday, December 13—Third Sunday of Advent
8:30 am +Mary Diamante by Kelly Sepesky

Last Sundays Offerings—\$5,819.00

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) if you will not be available from January 1 thru April 30. The schedule for Christmas, Easter, and Holydays will be announced in the bulletin.

Ministry Schedule

Sat., December 12, and Sun., December 13, 2015

<u>Time</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Eucharistic Min.</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
4:00 pm	M.A. Gallo	L. Henry A. Frolo R. Croushore S. Stein	K. Chavez B. Rizzuto
8:30 am	R. Godla	J. Petritis N. & S. Campus	B. Speicher S. Billy
10:30 am	M. Sacco	K. Byron R. Sassak M. Gigliotti L. Mandarino	J. & M. Sacco

Money Counters - Monday, December 7, 2015

P. Pettko—Finance Committee Member
R. Aguilar, R. Sowko, H. Veschio



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday, December 8, is a holy day of obligation. Mary is designated the patroness of the United States. Our Masses for the Solemnity are 8:00 am & 12 Noon. Additional Masses at area churches are: St. Sebastian Church, Vigil Mass, 7:00 p.m. on Monday and 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday; Church of Saint Anne, Rostraver at 8:00 am & 7:00 pm.

Angel Tree

Last weekend we gave out tags for our “Angel Tree.” We were able to use up all of our tags, for that I thank all of you. This will be a brighter Christmas for the children at Head Start. Remember to bring your gift back next weekend. Have your package wrapped and attach the card to the package so that we know who the gift will be given to. Again, I want to thank you for participating this year and as a parish we are truly sharing our goodness with the community. This is really what Christmas is all about.



Year of Mercy

Our Holy Father has declared the coming Church Year as a year of Mercy. Throughout this year we will reflect on the many ways that God’s mercy is a part of our lives. During this advent season we focus on the Mercy of God we share through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Below are listed the dates and times for our Regional Penance Services. All services begin at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 10 Holy Family West Newton
Wednesday, December 16 St. John, Perryopolis
Thursday, December 17 St. Anne, Rostraver
Tuesday, December 22 St. Sebastian, Belle Vernon

There is no penance service scheduled for our parish. For some reason we do not get people to come out to the services we have here at Epiphany. During Advent I will hear confessions after the 8:00 daily mass and also on Thursday mornings at 11:00 as well as on Saturday mornings at 11. I hope that you will be able to fit one of these times into your schedule and share in the Mercy of God during this season of waiting.

Enjoy Books—The Enjoy Book sale for this year is winding down. There are still a few books left if anyone is interested. They make a great last minute Christmas gift. Books can be obtained by calling Betty Geis at 724-684-5037 or by stopping at the Church Office. Thank you to all who purchased books and remember to use your card and coupons and enjoy your savings.

HOLY NAME SUNDAY—Next Sunday, December 13, 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.

Stop and Listen

Once again this week the virtues of commitment and hope permeate our Liturgy. Baruch who was a companion and friend of Jeremiah speaks in words filled with hope. He speaks to a people who are living in fear with hope that one day they will be able to return home. Baruch personifies God as a loving and concerned mother who reminds her children of their wrong doings while at the same time encourages them with words that speak of a future and promise of freedom, and that their journey home will be made easy because of God's love and care. Mountains will be leveled and valleys raised so that they may march on level ground with no hindrances.

St. Paul affirms those who are Baptized and living up to their commitments. Here he reminds us all that we should be grateful to the many people in our churches that faithfully carry on the work of the church by living out of their Baptismal promises. St. Luke in the Gospel introduces us to that mysterious figure we know as John the Baptist. It is interesting that he situates John in history by summarizing who the great leaders of the church were. In so doing, John is no mythical figure, he is rooted in history. Historians believe that John was a member of a strict Jewish sect whose members went through a ritual of washing or immersion into water symbolizing a baptism or bath. Similar to the prophets of the Old Testament, John summarizes all of salvation history for us by telling his audience to "*prepare the way of the Lord...*"

John must have been a magnetic person for his message spread far and wide among the people. He is presented to us as a humble man for he constantly reminds his listeners that "*One greater than I is to come.*" His message always points to the promise or fulfillment of the commitment that Jesus would come. History portrays him as a man who stands in contrast to Jesus, being grave and foreboding. Jesus was welcoming and forgiving. You would not invite John to your Christmas party – he would arrive in loincloth and sandals and refuse to share your wine and probably lay a guilt trip on you for having fun. Jesus on the other hand would feel comfortable eating and drinking with you. In fact He performed some of His most forgiving acts around food and drink: different men, different ways of proclaiming God's forgiveness.

Rather than a prolonged waiting, Advent brings us to active listening. Our world is full of sounds and noise and sometimes it can be difficult to hear God's word. We are challenged today to take the real events of our everyday lives – all the suffering and pain, all the anxiety and hopelessness, all the joy and peace and see them as means to recognize the presence of Christ to us. This is what Advent is all about: recognizing the presence of Christ in our lives. We are encouraged to stop our busyness long enough to hear that Word and allow the Word to make straight our paths.



Christ Life Evangelization Program

Christ Life is an evangelization program that equips Catholics for the essential work of evangelization so the world might personally encounter Jesus Christ and be transformed into His missionary disciples. The Christ Life Evangelization program celebrates 20 years this year and we are thinking of bringing it to our parish next year.

I am planning a meeting to explain the process and to see if people would be interested. This informational meeting will be tomorrow, Monday the 7th of December at 6:30 pm in the Chapel Hall. This will be a good opportunity to come and see what the program is about and decide whether or not you might be interested.

Scheduling Masses

The Mass book for 2016 is here and you can now book Masses. Because of the limited amount of Masses, we are asking that you book only **two Masses per family and of those two, only one can be over a weekend.** If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact me at the office.

Eternal Rest—Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently: **JOHN GLADYS and DAYNE CROSBY.**

Thanks to the Knights!

Over the past few weeks the Knights of Columbus have been selling cards and automobile magnets to remind us all of the importance to Keep Christ in Christmas. I am grateful for their presence and their message!

Turkey Bingo

All of the prizes have been picked up for this year's Turkey Bingo except for one. It is for \$100.00 dollars and there was no name on the ticket. The number of the ticket is: 11014. If you have this ticket, bring it to the office and claim your winnings.

Pierogi's for the Holidays are on sale at the church office while supplies last. Bags of two dozen for \$14.00.



LESSONS & CAROLS

Next Sunday,
December 13
6:30 p.m.
St. Sebastian Church.

Choir members from several local churches will celebrate Advent with a program of Lessons (Readings) and Carols. Members of the Epiphany of Our Lord choir will be participating in this yearly presentation. All are invited to attend.