

THE *Epiphany* OF OUR *Lord*

ROMAN
CATHOLIC
CHURCH



A PENNSYLVANIA CHARITABLE TRUST
A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG

JANUARY 10, 2016—BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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, January 9—Vigil
4:00 pm +Leo Janol by Wife, Sophia

Sunday, January 10—Baptism of the Lord
10:30 am +Robert Brovey by Wife & Family

Monday, January 11
8:00 am +Martha Demarco by Pierogi Crew

Tuesday, January 12
8:00 am +Joseph Ribovich—Family

Wednesday, January 13—St. Hilary
No Mass Today

Thursday, January 14
8:00 am +Regina Dzurik by Mon Valley Slovak Cultural Society

Friday, January 15
8:00 am +Peggie Guzzie by Clingenpeels

Saturday, January 16—Vigil
4:00 pm +Irma Vivio by Helen Vivio

Sunday, January 17—2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
10:30 am +Joseph Feehan by Armano Mori & Family

CHAPEL

Sunday, January 10—Baptism of the Lord
8:30 am +John Yurkovich by Aunt Lil Taylor

Sunday, January 17—2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 am +Esther Bucci by Connie Sadler

December 27 collection—\$7,116.72

Christmas collection—\$16,845.00

Children's & Family Services—\$1,601.25

Christmas Flowers—\$2,530.00

Advent Folders—\$2,001.00

Baptism Congratulations to IAN JOSEPH HELLER and SLOANE ANNALEE SANDS who were baptized here recently. May God bless Ian & Sloane and their families.

Ministry Schedule

Saturday, January 16, 2016 and Sunday, January 17, 2016

<u>Time</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Eucharistic</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
4:00 pm	M.K. Sersen	S. Beneccio A. Frolo B. & D. Mandarino	B. DuBreucq B. Rizzuto
8:30 am	J. Sepesky	J. Petritis S. & N. Campus	S. Billy B. Speicher
10:30 am	M. Sacco	J. Elias M. Gigliotti K. Byron L. Mandarino	M. & J. Sacco

Money Counters - Monday, January 11, 2016

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

I am grateful for all the Blessings...

As I sit back and think about the past few weeks, there many warm thoughts to hold onto. I believe that our celebrations of Christ's birth were exceptional. When you stop to think about the many people who came and were touched by the goodness of what we are as the Epiphany of Our Lord parish, God has truly blessed us all. Too often in life we overlook the goodness that we have and we don't appreciate nearly enough the blessings that God has given us.

I want to say that my heart has been touched by the generosity of all of you. The many cards and gifts that I was given is unbelievable. I am grateful to all of you. I feel that as your pastor, I have been blessed in the time that I have been here. I want you all to know how very grateful I am to you, and that through my prayers and service, I hope to share many more wonderful experiences in the future.

25th Anniversary Celebration

Last Sunday we had the kick off celebration for our anniversary. I think that everything turned out very nicely. It is good to simply come together and share the gift of who we are. Twenty five years is a blessing that we should not overlook. Throughout this year we will present the opportunity to celebrate not only who we are as a parish but also who we are yet to become. For that, we all need to be very grateful!

Celebrating "Mardi Gras"

We had our first planning meeting for this year's Mardi Gras and many people came and put together a fun filled evening. Mardi Gras will be on "Fat" or **Shrove Tuesday, February 9th**. The celebrations will begin at 6:30 PM and finish around 8:00 PM. The night will be a festive celebration before the fasting that the Lenten season brings. This year I am going to ask that if your last name begins with letters: **N – Z could you bring one of your delicious deserts. If your last name begins with: A – M bring a salad.** We are hoping to put together a real Parish Family celebration. There will be food and fun for all ages. Please mark your calendars so that you can come and be a part of the activities.

As a part of that evening's celebration we will conclude by burning the old palm that you received last year. We will then use the ashes from those palms to distribute on Ash Wednesday. I will have baskets at the entrances of the church so all you have to do is bring in your old palm and put them in the baskets.

The Season of Lent—Although we just finished the season of Christmas with the Baptism of the Lord, Lent is not far, February 10th is Ash Wednesday. In looking at this season of Penance, there are a number of things I want to start talking about. First of all when I came to The Epiphany of Our Lord, I was absolutely amazed at the number of people that are involved with the Fish Fry! It was truly heartwarming to see so many people working together, and there was no fighting! (At least I wasn't aware of any). Here we are talking about the Fish Fry again. As we prepare for another season, we are in need of much help. If you have not been a part of this in the past but think you might want to help, give me a call at the office. There are many things you could help with.

We are all God's Beloved



Our celebration of the Baptism of the Lord finishes off the season of Christmas and leads us into Ordinary Time. Today our readings speak about how Jesus was looked at through the eyes of the Gospel writers. It is clear that for the author of Matthew's gospel Jesus fits the identity of the "suffering servant" Isaiah speaks of in the first reading. We learn from the gospel that Jesus was the one who was commissioned by God to remind the people of God the very heart of scripture. He is God's servant with whom God is pleased and upon whom God put the divine spirit.

As we read all the versions of Jesus' baptism by John, it is clear that there was a lot of discussion about why Jesus had to be baptized in the first place. If baptism was meant to be "for the remission of sins," why should Jesus, who was sinless, be baptized at all? We clearly see that from John's baptism of Jesus there are no doubts about who is the greater between Jesus and John. This was a debate between many of the followers of John for a long time. They were not clear as to who was of greater importance. We hear from John himself what he perceives to be true; namely that Jesus is the Messiah.

In our highly secularized society and with the increasing number of people who view themselves as non-practicing Catholics, we may ask ourselves "What has become of baptism?" What is at issue here deals with meaning and relevance of what Baptism really is. One question that we all need to ask is: why would parents who not only have quit "religious practice" but have also dropped any form of faith education, want their children to be baptized? Baptism seems to be very much at odds with our modern society.

One thing that the baptism of Jesus did was define who he was. It is because Jesus knows who he is that he does what he did. We need to realize that because of our baptism we have been defined as being God's beloved as well. We are reminded today that we all need to revisit both our practice and our theology of baptism. An overemphasis on baptism as a means of purification from original sin limits our understanding of the sacrament.

There is more to baptism than simply purification. Baptism is the revelation of our true identity as children of God. We are baptized "in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." This makes a world of difference; it tells us how great our dignity and our vocation are. Imagine what our parish would be like if every member took the baptismal commission seriously? What might happen in families, in the neighborhood and its schools, in people's workplaces? What pain might be relieved, what suffering made meaningful?

Baptism identifies us as God's beloved children and our mission is to follow Jesus. The dying and rising is the "stuff" our Christian living is all about. We are living justly when we die to selfishness and rise to the needs of others. Like Jesus, we are "showing no partiality" when we die to judgments and categorizing or labeling others and rise to seeing all people as beloved children of God. Like Jesus, we do good when we forgive; we heal others when we offer kind words instead of words that tear down, or help another without being asked. Try to imagine a world where all baptized people live this way!

YOU'RE INVITED TO COME AND HELP!!

Pierogi making for the Lenten fish fries will start on Monday 1/18/16 and continue on Mondays 1/25, 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 2/29 and (3/7 & 3/14 - if needed). We start at 7:30 am, but you can come at any time. All are welcome.

Local Obits to be in Herald-Standard

With The Valley Independent going out of business, there is concern about how obituary information will be communicated. The Mon Valley Funeral Directors Association will be partnering with the Herald-Standard newspaper for expanded coverage into the Mon Valley. Obituary information for this area will be available through this media outlet. Please consult the Herald-Standard for funeral information about the beloved deceased of our community.

Epiphany Ladies Meeting

We would like to remind you that the Epiphany Ladies will meet after the 10:30 mass this weekend on the 10th of January. Remember to bring Valentines to send to the shut-ins.

Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to the March for Life

Youth in grades nine through twelve and their adult chaperones are invited to journey to the Life is Very Good Evening Rally, Morning Mass for Life, and March for Life in Washington, DC on January 21 and 22, 2016. The cost is \$125 and includes the Life is Very Good Evening Rally, Morning Mass, Lunch, the March for Life, dinner, Diocesan T-shirt, backpack, and coach bus transportation. For further details visit www.dioceseofgreensburg.org. Space is limited.

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 bellevonorearealitytour.org.

TAX STATEMENTS

You will be getting a statement from the church listing all of your contributions. We will have this mailing go out about the third week of January. If you would need a copy sooner, please give us a call and we will get one to you.