

THE *Epiphany* OF OUR Lord

ROMAN
CATHOLIC
CHURCH



A PENNSYLVANIA CHARITABLE TRUST
A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG

JANUARY 31, 2016—FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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.



MAIN CHURCH

Saturday, January 30—Vigil

4:00 pm +Mary Jo Bludis by M/M Leroy Dastolfo

Sunday, January 31—4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:30 am +Shaun Minniti by Family

Monday, February 1

8:00 am +Sandra Troilo by Bernadette Soltis

Tuesday, February 2—Presentation of the Lord

8:00 am +Wanda Walos by Sister, Helen Ciccarelli

Wednesday, February 3—St. Blaise

No Mass Today

Thursday, February 4

8:00 am +Rose Zajack by Sister, Mary

Friday, February 5—St. Agatha

8:00 am +Patsy Martucci by Family

Saturday, February 6—Vigil

4:00 pm +William Marino by Family

Sunday, February 7—5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:30 am +David J. Bergstedt by John Kerekes

CHAPEL

Sunday, January 31—4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 am +John & Mary Turkovich, Sr. by Rita Cocca

Sunday, February 7—5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 am +Louis Marcozzi by Ron & Mickey Campana

Sunday offerings—\$2,201.00

Ministry Schedule

Saturday, February 6, 2016 and Sunday, February 7, 2016

<u>Time</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Eucharistic</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
4:00 pm	S. Surdyn	L. Henry L. Micenko B. & D. Mandarin	B. & B. DuBreucq
8:30 am	F. Petrosky	R. Sassak K. Imbrescia B. Hughes, Jr.	B. Speicher S. Billy
10:30 am	M.A. Gallo	K. Byron W. White M. Gigliotti L. Mandarin	K. Bachinski T. Blatnik

Money Counters - Monday, February 1, 2016

R. Croushore—Finance Committee Member
J. Dudas, L. Dudas, B. Geis

Blessing of Throats

Each year the Church commemorates the feast of Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr, celebrated on February 3rd. St. Blaise is the patron saint for the protection against throat diseases. Since his feast day falls on a Wednesday, I will bless throats after the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Tuesday.

Mardi Gras

Ash Wednesday is February 10th so “Fat Tuesday” is on the 9th, (Next Week.) Our Mardi Gras celebration will begin at 6:30 PM and end around 8:00 PM. Remember that we will be decorating next Sunday the 7th beginning at 12:30. In order to prepare for the evening we will need to have a count of people so I will have signup sheets at the entrances of the church. This year we are asking that if your last name begins with letters: **N – Z could you bring one of your delicious desserts.**

If your last name begins with: A – M bring a salad. As part of the evening’s celebration you can also **B.Y.O.B.** If you could donate a case of pop or water it would be appreciated. If you can come, please sign up and indicate the number of people that will be there.

Remember also to bring in your old Palms from previous years...we will burn them in preparation for Ash Wednesday. Hope you are able to make it to this celebration!

DLA—Diocesan Lenten Appeal

We have already started our Diocesan Lenten Appeal for this year with the advanced stage. Over the next few weeks you will get a letter in the mail describing the appeal for this year. Our parish target for DLA this year is \$41,512. Last year we only went \$7,000 over our parish goal. As you know, once we reach the parish goal we keep everything that is brought in over and above the \$41,512. Once you receive your pledge card in the mail, decide what you want to do with the campaign for the year and return it. I am hoping to get enough money from this years refund to do some much needed work in the parking lots at the main church. If you have any questions or concerns about this campaign, know that I am always available to discuss them.

You will receive in the mail a letter detailing the schedule for this year’s campaign along with a pledge card. I think that everyone knows how this works, so I don’t need to explain it again. I know that you will be as generous as you always have in the past. Together we need to pray for a successful campaign not only for the Diocese but also for our parish.

Catholic Schools Week

This week we recognize what a blessing Catholic Education has been to our church. In our area we are blessed with a Regional Catholic School to pass on our faith through a quality Educational system. Throughout the history of our parish, our parishioners have struggled very hard to provide this education to our children. People have made tremendous sacrifices over the years. We all need to recognize what a blessing we have in our **Regional Catholic School.** Say a few extra prayers in thanksgiving for the opportunities we have in our parish and region. It is only with your support and love that we are able to provide this wonderful opportunity. Thanks to you all!

Love is a Call to Action

Today's liturgy gives us a taste of what love is really all about. St. Paul presents love not as something that we find in advertisements or product endorsements, rather love is seen as an ethical challenge. He speaks to a community that was sharply divided over the value of gifts. Some felt that they were more blessed than others. Some believed that their gifts were better than everybody else's. What was missing among the people of Corinth was the unifying power that love is about. You can be blessed beyond your wildest dreams but if it is not grounded in love, then it is all for naught. Love must be active. Love is what love does. Love teaches, love forgives, love has no limits, and love never ends. Love must be the criterion against which all gifts are measured. Those who love, as Paul tells us what love is and does, love God.

Paul's explanation of love builds up the community and invites people to care for those left out, for those who go astray and prompts generosity among its members. This type of love is very practical and calls for mutual respect for all members of the body of Christ.

Love needs to be at the root of all of our ambitions in life. If not, then we are missing the point. Jeremiah in the first reading shows the people of Israel that God's love must be seen through all of life, the good along with the bad. He talks about a renewal of God's covenant rooted in love. His words were not merely spoken, it was through his life and his suffering that he gave witness to his speech. Prophets often say things to people that they do not want to hear. This is the case with Jeremiah. At times his preaching seems severe, but he tried always to raise the consciousness of the people so that they would understand their betrayal of Yahweh. Throughout his entire ministry he desperately tried to show the people the absolute love that God had for them.

Last week we saw how powerful the spoken word can be. This week we see an example of what that spoken word can really do. Jeremiah is persecuted for speaking the truth. The people did not want to listen, or they simply could not bear to face the truth about how they were living their lives. Jesus through His words does exactly the same thing. When He was saying things that the people agreed with, He was the great well respected home town boy. As soon as He pointed to the greater picture and a closer look at reality, they were ready to throw Him over a cliff.

We are confronted today with the reality that we will not always like what we hear in God's word. God's word must take us beyond where we are. It is the love found in God's words that encourage us to surrender ourselves and our own small worlds to encompass the larger vision of a world in which God assures that all are met with love and dignity. When God's words make demands on us, we are faced with new ways we must die to ourselves in order to become better disciples. Dorothy Day often quoted from Dostoevsky: "Love in action is a harsh and dreadful thing, compared to love in dreams." We all need to determine how we will put love into action and take it out of our dreams.

Lenten Fish Fry

The ladies have already begun to make perogies in preparation for the Lenten Fish Fry's, which means that we all better get started. It is hard to believe, but in just a few short weeks the season of Lent will be upon us. One of the greatest gifts I think that we offer as the Epiphany of Our Lord parish is our weekly Fish Fry. I am always amazed at the turn out we get not only from the parish but also from the community.

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has certainly made his intentions on Evangelization well known, and this is one of the best ways to evangelize our church. What better way to touch people than through sharing a meal together.

As successful as our Fish Fry's may be, they don't just happen on their own; there are many good and generous people who work very hard to make it so. I am asking that you consider becoming a part of this crew. There are many ways that you can help, and every little bit does make a difference. **We need people to work in the kitchen as well as to wait on tables. If you think you might have some time to share, please give us a call at the office.**

You're Invited to Come and Help!!

Pierogi making for the Lenten fish fries is on the following Mondays: 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.

Holy Family Prayer Program

Next Sunday, February 7th at the 10:30 Liturgy we will pay tribute to the Holy Family of Jesus as well as our own Holy Families. "The future of the world and of the Church passes through the family," observed St. John Paul II, whom Pope Francis called "the Pope of the Family." Recognizing the vital role of families in the world, the Knights of Columbus has dedicated its 17th Order-wide Prayer Program to the Holy Family, with the intention of strengthening Catholic families and their prayer lives.

The image that will be present in our church during the 10:30 liturgy is an etching of the Holy Family by Giovanni Balestra (1774-1842) It was blessed by Pope Francis on June 29, 2015. The picture will be in our church that Sunday morning only. We will have special prayers during the liturgy focusing on the gift of Family.

First Holy Communion Workshop

The first workshop for the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist will be held on Saturday, February 13, at 9:00 a.m., in St. Sebastian Parish Hall. All students who will receive the Sacrament of First Eucharist and their parents are to attend this workshop.

