

THE *Epiphany* OF OUR Lord

ROMAN
CATHOLIC
CHURCH



A PENNSYLVANIA CHARITABLE TRUST
A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - NOVEMBER 29, 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, November 28—Vigil

4:00 pm +Nescot & Gallo Families by Mary Ann & Joe Gallo & Shirley Marino

Sunday, November 29—First Sunday of Advent

10:30 am +Lucille Lipari by Elias, Lipari & Durante Families

Monday, November 30—St. Andrew

8:00 am +Fiorino Ruffolo by Family

Tuesday, December 1

8:00 am +Milan Pettko by Daughter, Patty

Wednesday, December 2

No Mass Today

Thursday, December 3—St. Francis Xavier

8:00 am +Gary Cope by Anthony Mascetta

Friday, December 4—St. John Damascene

8:00 am +Joseph Aiello by Wife Catherine & Children, Joseph, John, Jim & Jean

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. by Bob & Bev Mascetta

CHAPEL

Sunday, November 29—First Sunday of Advent

8:30 am +John B. Harhai by Wife, Dolores & Family

Sunday, December 6—Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 am +Vizza & Nicksich Family by Family

Due to the Early Transmission of this bulletin, the Offerings for November 22 and Thanksgiving will be in next weeks bulletin.

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.

Ministry Schedule

Sat., December 5, 2015 and Sun., December 6, 2015

<u>Time</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Eucharistic Min.</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
4:00 pm	L. Micenko	R. Kozar S. Benecio L. & J. Dudas	B. & B. DuBreucq
8:30 am	J. Sepesky	L. DeFelices K. Imbrescia B. Hughes, Jr.	B. Speicher D. DeFelices
10:30 am	J. Buggy	T. Mazzei P. Fantauzzi M.A. Kostolansky S. McCarthy	K. Bachinski Volunteer

Money Counters - Monday, November 30, 2015

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

Christmas Giving Tree

For those who took a name from our giving tree, remember that your gifts need to be brought to church during the weekend of December 12th and 13th. If you have any questions about this project, please feel free to contact the office. **All you need to do is wrap your gift and attach the card from the tree on the package. Bring the package with the card attached and we will make sure it gets delivered**



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 10th 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 11:00 am. 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.

Brown Bag Sunday

I want to thank everyone who participated in our Brown Bag Sunday last week. We certainly did get a lot of mittens hats and scarves. Know that all of these items will be given to children from our community. The kindness of your heart will certainly go a long way in keeping many children a little warmer this winter. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Turkey Bingo

Last week we celebrated another successful Turkey Bingo! We are all grateful to the Epiphany Ladies, Pat Godla, who chaired the event, and everyone who participated. It was a wonderful Sunday afternoon and I do believe that all who came did enjoy themselves. I thank everyone who had anything to do with this year's event, it truly was a success.

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

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

Advent: A time to Hope

Today we begin the season of Advent which is a time of preparation and planning to once again celebrate the birth of Jesus. Advent is full of promise and hope reminding us of our unique relationship and commitment to God. Often in life we humans can find it very difficult to be true to our commitments. We may have the very best of intentions when making those commitments but if something better comes along we too easily let them go. This time of preparation and waiting can be full with the many trappings that Christmas is swallowed up by. We also can be swallowed by those trappings and find that Advent is nothing more than a reminder that we only have four weeks to get everything done. As the countdown begins where do our thoughts turn? Most often we lose ourselves on what we have to get done, and how we are going to “cram” everything into such a short period of time.

Our readings for this First Sunday of Advent present us with a contrast between lives lived in faithful commitment to God’s covenant and lives which have strayed from that covenant. In the first reading Jeremiah is preaching to a people in exile. Because of their lack of fidelity to God’s covenant, they brought upon themselves lives of captivity and longing for their homeland. The gospel presents a similar contrast but in a context to choices that we need to make. We are reminded that we need to choose to be faithful to our covenant and promises made to God; we are to live our lives out of this constant awareness which will give us hope.

Advent is a season in which we look both backward and forward, it reflects on the rhythm of our lives. We know that we continually move into the future, yet we feel the need to look to the past to see how it has shaped our lives. Our readings today are filled with hope; they encourage us to look to our past and learn from it without allowing it to drag us down. We are given a promise of hope and new life despite our past. Hope then becomes a reason to embrace the future with confidence.

I suppose the real question we need to ask ourselves is: what do you hope for? In answering this question we need to look at hope as it is expressed throughout the scriptures as a belief that at some time what we desire now, deep down inside of us will actually happen. Hope is different from dreams, which can be momentary and forgotten. We do not build our lives on dreams; they are built on hopes. Hope gives us strength to continue even when our dreams are shattered. For many people living on this earth, hope is their only food. Advent reminds us that we remember in order to make the promises of the past come true now. The past is our teacher. The future is our hope. With hopeful faith, we continually prepare for the arrival of the Son of God.



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 on 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.

Calendars Available

Thanks to the generosity of **Janosik’s Pharmacy, Dalfonso – Billick Funeral Home, Franks Service Garage, INC. and the Robert A Billick Funeral Home, INC** who provided our parish once again with the calendar for 2016. We are grateful to these sponsors and thank them for their goodness. You may pick up one of these calendars throughout the Advent Season.

19th Annual Joint Christmas Party

Members of the Epiphany Ladies, CBPW and CDA are reminded that reservations are due for the annual Christmas Party by November 25th. An afternoon “Christmas High Tea” will be held at the Serendipity Tea Room in Belle Vernon on Sunday, December 6th at 2:00 p.m. Price is \$25.00. RSVP to Virginia Saunders at 724-929-5816. Car-pooling will be available. For additional information, contact Pat Godla at 724-684-7235.



Regional Events

Vendor & Craft Show—Church of St. Anne, Rostraver, Saturday, December 5, 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Paint ‘n Sip—Saint Sebastian Church, Sunday, December 6, Doors open at 12-Noon. Three painting designs to choose from. To purchase tickets call their Parish Office 724-929-9300.

Greensburg Central Catholic Visit Day—On Thursday, December 10, Eighth Grade students are invited to **9th Grade Visit Day**. You will have the chance to get to know the current GCC 8th graders throughout the day. A bus will pick you up at 1:00 pm and take you back to your school. For more information or to make your reservation, please call Assistant Principal, Mr. Althof or Mrs. Sherman, Guidance Counselor, at 724-834-0310.