

Epiphany of Our Lord Church

10893 SISSON HWY.
NORTH COLLINS, NY 14111



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 28TH AND 29TH

337-2686 • Fax: 337-0028

www.epiphanyofourlordrc.com

Email: epiphanyparish@gmail.com

Facebook: Epiphany of Our Lord R.C. Parish Community

Parish Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9am-12pm

Tuesdays and Thursday: 9am-12pm and 2pm-4pm

Please call the office if you need to make an appointment outside of Office Hours.

Saturday Vigil Mass- 4:00pm

Sunday Masses— 8:30am & 11:00am

Daily Mass: 8:30am

Monday-Friday and First Saturdays

CONFESSIONS

Every Day after each Mass and by appointment (703-4066).
Please speak with Father if you would like to receive the sacrament of reconciliation.

PARISH STAFF

Pastor.....Rev. Mitch Byeck (703-4066)

DeaconRoy Dibb

Parish Business ManagerSarah Jo Schmitt

Faith Formation Coord. Tracy Tremblay

Music Director

Cantor/Leader of Song

Facility Coord. (Volunteer) Mary Ann Gabel

Maintenance (Volunteer) Roger Powenski

PARISH LAY TRUSTEES..Daniel Gabel • Bonnie Hohman

PASTORAL COUNCIL OFFICERS

Chairperson Roger Powenski

Secretary Bonnie Hohman

Vicariate Council Representative Marty Ptak

Vicariate Council Representative Mary Richmond

PARISH MINISTRIES

Baptismal Prep FormationTina Kron

Finance Committee Robin Hohman

Liturgy Committee..... Annette Noto

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Compassion Ministry..... Anne Schmitz

Bereavement Contact Parish Office, 337-2686

PARISH HALL RENTAL: To reserve the hall for a function, please contact Mary Gattie at 337-3150.

For Information on Baptisms, Weddings, Faith Formation, Parish Registration, and other Church Activities, please call the Parish Office.

Let us be ever watchful for our God,
who comes to us in ordinary
circumstances. Perhaps, like Isaiah, we
long for God to perform a breath-taking
miracle that would make us sit up and
take notice. Yet, as people of faith, we
are called to see God in the ordinary.
Advent gives us the opportunity to take
time to pray— to sharpen our vision of
God's presence in our daily lives.



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1990, 1970 OGD.

**Mass Intentions
For the Week of November 29th
(C) Church**

Sat., Nov. 28th: *Vigil of the First Sunday of Advent*
4:00pm (C) Laura Tremblay
By Phil and Tracy Tremblay

Sun, Nov. 29th: *First Sunday of Advent*
8:30am (C) +Dean Gallaway
By Vin and Bonnie Noto
11:00am (C) +Tom Powenski
By Mary & Dan Szeglowksi

Monday, Nov. 30th: *Saint Andrew*
8:30am (C) +Mary Sakura Koessler
By Phil & Tracy Tremblay

Tuesday, Dec 1st: *Advent Weekday*
8:30am (C) Rose Kohn
By Joanne, Clyde, Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren

Wednesday, Dec. 2nd: *Advent Weekday*
8:30am (C) +For All Deceased Priests of the Buffalo Diocese
By Father Mitch Byeck

Thursday, Dec. 3rd: *Saint Francis Xavier*
8:30am (C) Phil Tremblay
By Tracy Tremblay

Friday, Dec. 4th: *Advent Weekday— First Friday Devotions*
8:30am (C) +Chuck Richmond
By Frank and Arlene Bayerl

Sat. Dec. 5th: *First Saturday Devotions*
8:30am (C) All Those Who Uphold the Sanctity of Life
By Father Mitch Byeck

Sat, Dec. 5th: *Vigil of Second Sunday of Advent*
4:00pm (C) +Donna Motak
By Carolyn Andolina and Family

Sun, Dec 6th: *Second Sunday of Advent*
8:30am (C) +Rick Jemison
By Joyce Schmitz and Dave Winter
11:00am (C) +Otto Werneth
By Hilde Werneth

The Sanctuary Candles are lit this week for all First Responders.

Readings for the Week of November 29th

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

Monday: Rom 10:9-18/Mt 4:18-22

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: IS 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Weekly Collection (11/22): \$1,578.00

Total Budget (Sept. 1st - Aug. 31st)

\$145,000.00

Current Collection Total for this Fiscal Year:

\$30,035.62



Lector Schedule

Lectors, if you have not contacted the Parish Office about scheduling, please do as soon as possible.

December 5th, 4pm— Mary Gattie

December 6th, 8:30am— Paul & Robin Hohman

December 6th, 11am— Maryanne Kozub

Compassion Ministry

To place someone on the prayer list, please complete and return a card available at the entrances of the church, or call the rectory. Individuals will remain on the list for 4 weeks unless the rectory is notified otherwise. *If you have a loved one on our list and they pass away, please let the parish office know.*

Vicky (Achtly) Alessi, Lena Anzalone, Cindy Gabel Amacher, Ann Andzel, Nellie Jo Ballard, Elaine Bauer, Romie Lee Bettinger, Ernest Bracikowski, Christine Brown, Mary Jane Butzer, Joey Crocker, Paula Czora, Esther Dittenhofer, Norie Donhauser, John Duggan, Otto Duggan, Anne Edwards, Art Gernatt, Norm Grapes, Patrick Grapes, Sylvia Grapes, Mark Grugel, Ashley Haettich, Bob Holbrook, Robert Hogan, Jeanne Hutchings, Daniel Kozub, Rose Kohn, Irma Martin, Sara Mackey Dunn, Andrew Marconi, Diane May, Bob McNerney, Millie Muehlbauer, Marty Niefergold, Jean Ott, Holly Pearce, Andrew Remero, Pat Ricotta, Kathy Smith, Danielle Stark, Lorraine Stark, Donelle Thomas, Trisha Weiss, Ed Urban, Gary Wentland.



Thank you to each and everyone who helped make the Mass of Remembrance a beautiful and meaningful experience.

Prayerfully yours, Mass of Remembrance Committee

Thank you to everyone who donated food to this year's Annual Food Drive. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

-Roy and Maureen Schmitt

Road to Renewal: Bishop Scharfenberger's Pastoral Letter

Our Apostolic Administrator, Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger has issued a Pastoral Letter to the Clergy, Religious and Lay Faithful of our diocese. The letter is being mailed to registered Catholic households as well as being made available at all of our parishes and Catholic Institutions in time for the First Sunday of Advent, November 29th, 2020. The purpose of the Pastoral Letter is to provide the spiritual foundation for our Diocesan Road to Renewal Initiative. Everyone in our diocese is encouraged to read the Pastoral Letter and to spend time reflecting and sharing with one another the significance of this call to renewal in the Diocese of Buffalo.



Christmas Flower Sale

Envelopes will be available in the back of Church, and at the side door, to order Flower Memorials for Christmas. Orders need to be returned to the office (or in the

collection basket) by **Monday December 14th.**

If you would like to order poinsettias for home, please call the Parish office. Orders for home are due by December 7th.

Christmas Card Blessings

Starting this weekend (Nov. 28th/29th) we invite you to bring your, **addressed and postage stamped** Christmas Cards to Mass with you and place them in the basket in front of the Advent Wreath. A label will be placed on them saying that they were blessed at Epiphany. They will be mailed out for you on the following Monday!





Dear Parishioners,

As much as we would love to be able to do the Angel Tree as we have in years past, the organizations involved feel that this year, because of distancing and time constraints, it would be best if it could be done purely as gift cards. The families can use gas cards, groceries, discount stores, and restaurants. Please try and keep the cards as local as possible (North Collins/Eden) as many lack transportation. Amazon cards would work as well, as things can be delivered.

I will put a large, wrapped "Gift" box underneath the tree in the back of Church. Please put the gift cards/certificates into the box, by no later than December 6th. We will see that they get distributed to those in need.

As always, thank you for your continued support.
Nancy Koester, Angel Tree Chair

Second Collection December 5th/6th

Next week, our special collection will be for the Retirement Fund for Religious. In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have served our Church and world. Today, they pray for a world that is hurting. Yet hundreds of religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for aging members. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

Mass Intentions for 2021 may now be scheduled!

To schedule a Mass please contact the parish office.

A Mass is a sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, brought forward in time to the present. At Mass you could say that a "time warp" is opened in which the sacrifice of Jesus is mystically brought forward to be present to us. When we are present at a celebration of the Eucharist, we are not merely turning our attention to the past, we are actually bringing forward into the present the most pivotal moment of human history.

Masses can be offered for a number of intentions: for the deceased, to invoke the Lord's special graces for a friend or loved one, for a successful surgery and recovery, or for an anniversary. A \$15 donation is asked for each Mass requested.

If you would like to request a Sanctuary Candle to be lit, please contact the Parish Office. A \$10 donation is asked per week of the Sanctuary Candle being lit.



Due to the current guidelines that we are working with this year, we have decided to add additional Masses to our Christmas Schedule. All Masses will also be live-streamed on our Facebook Page.

Please consider attending the additional Masses to help spread the number of people at each Mass because of the Covid-19 restrictions:

- Thursday, December 24th: 4pm
- Thursday, December 24th: 8pm (*additional Mass*)
- Friday, December 25th: 12am (Midnight)
- Friday, December 25th 8:30am (*additional Mass*)
- Friday, December 25th 11am



This year's penance service will be held on Wednesday December 16th at 7pm in the Parish Hall. There will be 4 priests available to hear confessions that evening.

The Advent Wreath Tradition & Meaning

Darkness and Light

Advent candles reading demonstrate the strong contrast between darkness and light, which is an important biblical image. Jesus referred to himself as the "Light of the World" that dispels the darkness of sin: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

Human history spanned long ages shrouded in the darkness of in before our prophesied Savior would finally make his appearance to free us from its dominion. As the Messiah's "Advent" (or "coming") draws nearer another candle is lit, with each candle dispelling the darkness a little more. Thus, the Advent wreath helps us to spiritually contemplate the great drama of salvation history that surrounds the birth of God Incarnate, who comes to redeem the human race and make all things new (Rev. 21:5).

It also reminds us that, as Christians, we're meant to shine the light of Christ in this world. As Jesus tells us, "You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:14-16).

To be continued.....

First Sunday of Advent Reflections

Today we begin Advent, a hopeful and holy season in which we are called to be alert and watchful. This season anticipates the great celebration of Jesus' birth and his incarnation in human history. While advent prepares our hearts for Christmas, we are also called in a special way during Advent and throughout our lives not only to "anticipate" something that already happened— Jesus' birth— but to be alert for signs of God's presence in our lives.

It is easy for us to be distracted by the details of what we feel we must do for the celebration of Christmas. We can wander from the ways of God and instead focus on the more secular aspects of the celebration. Like Isaiah, we long to be watchful and alert, as Jesus commands us, and can even beg God to send down a dramatic sign— mountains quaking before us— so that we can remember him in this time of busy-ness and its many distractions.

In our struggle to be watchful and alert, to walk in the ways of God, we can take heart in Paul's words to the Corinthians today. As he did for those early Christians, God bestows countless graces on us and enriches us *in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge... so that [we] are not lacking in any spiritual gift.* As baptized children of God, we can rely upon the Holy Spirit to keep us alert and watchful for the small ways that God reveals himself to us in our lives. We do not need to ask for spectacular signs of God's presence, but can find them every day of our lives, in countless moments. We are called to watch for those moments when Jesus might come to us— *in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning.*

One way to train ourselves in watchfulness is to adopt, at least during Advent, the nightly practice of the *Examen*. This reflection, from Saint Ignatius Loyola, involves reviewing the past day— not only remembering times when we might have displeased God or missed out on his message to us, but perhaps especially to remember times that God might have been gifting us with a grace. Did a child or a colleague pay us a compliment? Did we gain a sudden insight when dealing with a challenging problem? These can be seen as gifts from God, signs of God's love. Participating in a practice such as this could help us be more alert and watchful throughout the day of the many ways God is present to us.

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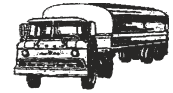
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