

Epiphany of Our Lord Church

10893 SISSON HWY.
NORTH COLLINS, NY 14111



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 19TH & 20TH

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.

To listen to Mass on the Radio: 88.5FM

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

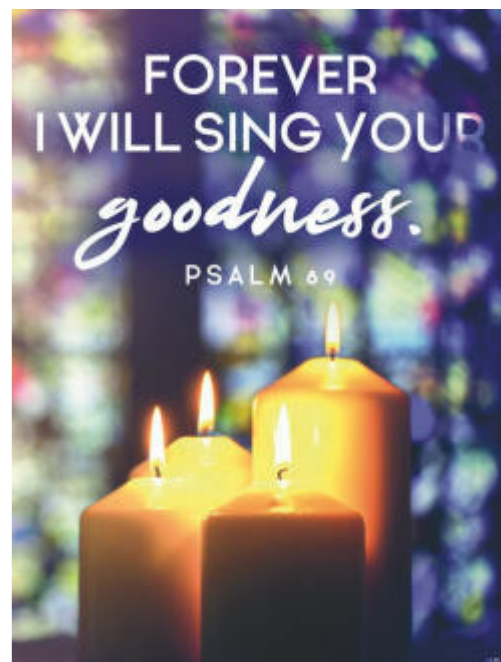
Compassion Ministry..... Anne Schmitz

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.

The Lord dwells among us. David worries that the ark of God dwells in a tent; Mary doesn't hesitate to allow the ark of God to dwell within her. God is not bound by human constraints, and yet he asks us to participate with him, and cooperate with his grace, that the ark of the covenant— and the arc of salvation history— may be made available to all.



**Mass Intentions
For the Week of December 20th
(C) Church**

Sat., Dec. 19th: *Vigil of the Fourth Sunday of Advent*
4:00pm (C) +Chuck Richmond
By The Hornbergers

Sun, Dec. 20th: *Fourth Sunday of Advent*
8:30am (C) +Clyde Dole
By Pete and Cindy Renaldo

11:00am (C) +Alexandra Mikowski-Andrews
By The Family

Monday, Dec. 21st: *Late Advent Weekday*
8:30am (C) All Epiphany of Our Lord Parishioners
By Fr. Mitch Byeck

Monday, Dec. 21st: *Anointing Mass*
6:30pm (C) For All Sick and Suffering in Our Parish
By Fr. Mitch Byeck

Tuesday, Dec 22nd: *Late Advent Weekday*
8:30am (C) +Poor Souls in Purgatory
By John and Annette Noto

Wednesday, Dec. 23rd: *Late Advent Weekday*
8:30am (C) +Agnes M. Heary
By Beverly Heary

Thursday, Dec. 24th: *Late Advent Weekday*
8:30am (C) +Marion Kern
By Family & Friends

Thursday, Dec. 24th: *Vigil of The Nativity of the Lord*
4:00pm (C) +Norm Schuster
By Julie Schuster
8:00pm (C) +Irma McKinnon
By Karen Duggan

Friday, Dec. 25th: *The Nativity of the Lord*
Midnight (C) +Cherie Hohman Piniewski
By Mom and Dad
8:30am (C) +For All Souls
By Parish All Souls Intentions
11:00am (C) +Phyllis Schmitz
By The Family

Sat, Dec. 26th: *Vigil of The Holy Family Jesus, Mary & Joseph*
4:00pm (C) +Jim Skora, Walter & Ann Skora, Albert & Florence Schmitz
By Mary Ellen Skora

Sun, Dec 27th: *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph*
8:30am (C) +Mary Lou Vogt
By Phil & Tracy Tremblay
11:00am (C) Roger & Kathy Powenski
(50th Wedding Anniversary)

The Sanctuary Candle in Church is lit this week for Collin Renaldo as requested by Pete & Cindy Renaldo.

The Sanctuary Candle in the Rectory Chapel is lit this week for Irma McKinnon as requested by Karen Duggan

Readings for the Week of December 20th

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b012, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
Monday: Sg 2:8-14/Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66
Thursday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79
Friday: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18
Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22



Weekly Collection (12/13):
Collection Total for this Fiscal Year:
\$33,940.62

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, Levi Rothfuss, Patricia and Wesley Schmitt, Kathy Smith, Danielle Stark, Lorraine Stark, Donelle Thomas, Trisha Weiss, Ed Urban, Gary Wentland, Mike Winter.

Christmas Card Blessings

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 lectern. 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!



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



2021 Grand Raffle

Our 13th Annual Grand Raffle will take place on Tuesday, March 23rd 2021. Each ticket is \$20; there will be 30 winners and the prizes are:

1st Prize: \$4,000
2nd Prize: \$1,000 3rd Prize: \$1,000
4th-6th Prizes: \$500 7th-10th Prizes: \$250
11th-20th Prizes: \$100 21st-30th Prizes: \$50

Our goal is to sell 1,000 tickets to make the Grand Raffle a success. That means we need everyone to help. Tickets have been mailed out to all registered parishioners. If you need more tickets, they are available at Church or in the Rectory. They can make great Christmas gifts! Please return any tickets you are unable to sell.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, we will not be having the reception this year. We will draw the tickets with a small audience, possibly at a Pastoral Council Meeting, and all winners will be posted in the parish bulletin as well as on our Parish Facebook Page.



Oplatek– “Polish Christmas Wafer”

Sharing of the oplatek (pronounced opwatek) is the most ancient and beloved of all Polish Christmas traditions. Oplatek is a thin wafer made of flour and water, similar in taste to the

hosts that are used for communion during Mass.

The Christmas wafer is shared before Wigilia, the Christmas Eve supper. The head of the household usually starts by breaking the wafer with his wife and then continues to share it with everyone at the Wigilia table. Wishes for peace and prosperity are exchanged and even the pets and farm animals are given a piece of oplatek on Christmas Eve.

Oplatek is available for a donation in the back of Church as well as at the side entrance and from the Rectory.

Mass Intentions and Sanctuary Candle Requests

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 the Sanctuary Candle to be lit, please contact the Parish Office. A \$10 donation is asked per week of the Sanctuary Candle being lit.

2021 Collection Envelopes

The 2021 Collection Envelopes are available in the back of Church. If you do not currently receive collection envelopes and would like to, please contact the Parish Office.

Tri-County Crisis Pregnancy Center News

If you or anyone you now has children or grandchildren that are in need please contact Alexandria Reid at the Tri-County Crisis Pregnancy Center, located in Gowanda, NY. The pregnancy center has many things to offer ranging from diapers and clothes to car seats and pack N plays. You can make an appointment by calling 716-532-9738 or messaging the “Tri-County Crisis Pregnancy Center” directly on Facebook.

30th Annual Festival of Lights at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine

1023 Swann Rd, Youngstown through January 3rd 2021 with a modified schedule due to Covid 19. Lights will be on from 5 to 9pm December 18th-January 3rd. See 15 acres of spectacular Christmas lights, including a 9-foot tall outdoor illuminated Nativity scene and a life-sized Fontanini Nativity scene in the Basilica. Climb on top of the Basilica and get an angel’s eye view of the Avenue of Saints and the Spirit of Christmas. New this year is an exhibit of our 300 International Nativity Sets on display in Fatima Hall when the lights are on. Admission and parking are free. Groups welcome; reservations appreciated. For scheduled hours of the Office, Gift Shop and Cafeteria, call 716-754-7489 or email office@fatimashrine.com.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent Homily

Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

There is a somewhat humorous, if not also very insightful, observation about the often-used command in Scripture: Do not be afraid. This observation is that any time we hear “fear not”, or “do not be afraid”, something very worth being afraid of is about to happen. In other words, the words “fear not” ought to strike fear into our hearts, because we are about to be asked to do something far outside of our comfort zone: to trust, to have faith, to grow, to love, to follow where the Lord is leading us.

There is something amusing in this, because there is also some truth to it. How many of us have had children say, “Don’t be mad, but...” (followed by something that likely makes us mad), or heard someone say, “Don’t worry, but...” (followed by something no one would blame us for worrying about).

But there is something quite insightful in this observation, too. And that is, we can laugh at the idea of it because we know, in the end, that all will be well. How do we know this? Because of *why* we are told not to be afraid: *Do not fear, I am with you* (Isaiah 41:10); *Be strong, do not fear! He comes to save you* (Isaiah 35:4); *Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid* (Mark 6:50). From the beginning of human time, God has promised us he will not forsake us, or leave us alone. And so today: *Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.*

Mary, perfected in grace, has been chosen by God for something we’d agree that anyone of common sense would find frightening. But in her knowledge of God’s favor upon her (another way of saying God would always be with her), she steps boldly and fully into the unknown. She has been told that *the Holy Spirit will come upon [her]; and that the power of the Most High will overshadow [her]*. She will not be alone. She will have the help and grace of God, for whom nothing will be impossible.

And so her *fiat*– *May it be done to me according to your word*– makes perfect sense. How could she not say *yes*, when her faith and trust in a God who had nurtured his covenant and fulfilled his every promise, was affirmed by his envelopment of her in his love and protection? How could we not say *yes*, when the same God who found favor with Mary, finds favor with us and never forsakes us? He can strengthen us; Paul writes to the Romans. Where we cannot, God can. We do nothing alone, and all things through the grace of God.

The angels and prophets, and Jesus himself, are right to tell us “fear not”. For God is with us. *Emmanuel*. And so, we can laugh at the observation regarding Scripture, and we can laugh in the face of our fear. And in these remaining days of Advent, we give thanks for our Triune God who desires to be in relationship with us, who dwelt among us and whose Holy Spirit empowers us in our faith. We do not have to be afraid.

United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of New York in re The Diocese of Buffalo N.Y. Case No. 20-10322. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT, on February 28, 2020, The Diocese of Buffalo N.Y., (“Diocese”) filed for protection under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”). The Bankruptcy Code has established August 14, 2021 at 11:59p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time) as the deadline to file proofs of claim against the Diocese (the “Bar Date”). If you have a claim against the Diocese, including, without limitation, a claim related to sexual abuse committed by any person connected with the Diocese, you must file a claim on or before the Bar Date. Please visit <https://case.stretto.com/dioceseofbuffalo> or call 855292-7696 for more information on how to file your proof of claim. IF YOU DO NOT TIMELY FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM, YOU MAY FORFEIT YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE ON ANY PLAN OF REORGANIZATION AND TO SHARE IN ANY DISTRIBUTIONS TO CREDITORS IN CONNECTION WITH THE Diocese’s chapter 11 case.

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