

# Epiphany of Our Lord Church

10893 SISSON HWY.  
NORTH COLLINS, NY 14111



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 20TH AND 21ST

337-2686 • Fax: 337-0028

[www.epiphanyofourlordrc.com](http://www.epiphanyofourlordrc.com)

Email: [epiphanyparish@gmail.com](mailto: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**

(All Masses are Live-Streamed on our Facebook Page as well)

### 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 from the Church Parking Lot:  
88.5FM

### PARISH STAFF

Pastor.....Rev. Mitch Byeck (703-4066)  
Deacon .....Roy Dibb  
Parish Business Manager .....Sarah Jo Schmitt  
Faith Formation Coord. ....Tracy Tremblay  
Music Director.....Amelia Wroblewski  
Cantor/Leader of Song.....Anna Fera  
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 Formation .....Tina Kron  
Finance Committee ..... Robin Hohman  
Liturgy Committee..... Annette Noto

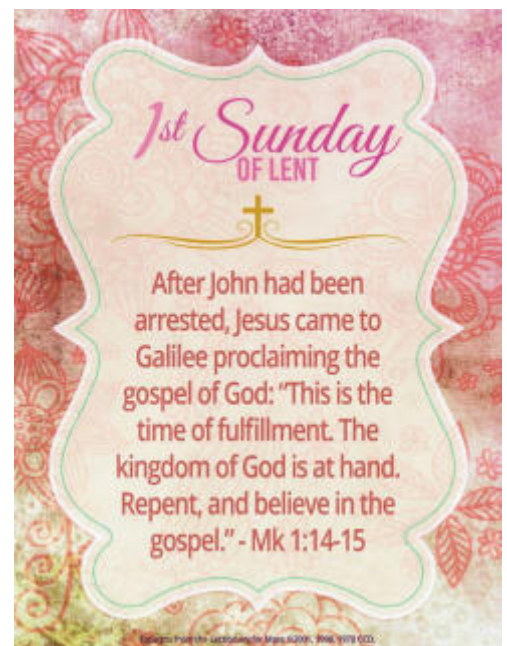
### OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Compassion Ministry..... Anne Schmitz  
Bereavement ..... Contact Parish Office, 337-2686

**PARISH HALL RENTAL:** To reserve the hall for a function, please contact the Parish Office 716-337-2686 .  
For Information on Baptisms, Weddings, Faith Formation, Parish Registration, and other Church Activities, please call the Parish Office.

If we go into the desert with Jesus this Lent, his grace will move us forward in our life of faith. Lent isn't an end unto itself; we go into the desert with Jesus in order to advance in holiness and in our spiritual life. All the blessings and trials in our lives are not closed events.

They're precursors to more: greater trust in God, deeper union with him, and a greater sense of our mission to proclaim the kingdom of God.



**Mass Intentions  
For the Week of February 21st  
(C) Church**

- Sat., Feb. 20th** *Vigil of First Sunday of Lent*  
4:00pm (C) +Marcella Emerling  
By The Family
- Sun, Feb 21st:** *First Sunday of Lent*  
8:30am (C) +Alice Gates  
By Family and Friends  
11:00am (C) +Theodore Kaczanowski III  
By Aunt Betty Hogan
- Monday, Feb. 22nd:** *The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle*  
8:30am (C) +Joe Steffan  
By Roger and Kathy Powenski
- Tues, Feb. 23rd:** *Lenten Weekday*  
8:30am (C) +Dave Schmitz  
By Joyce and Family
- Wed, Feb. 24th:** *Lenten Weekday*  
8:30am (C) All Epiphany of Our Lord Parishioners  
By Fr. Mitch Byeck
- Thur. Feb 25th:** *Lenten Weekday*  
8:30am (C) +All Souls  
By Parish Intentions
- Friday, Feb. 26th:** *Lenten Weekday*  
8:30am (C) +Jane Haag  
By Family and Friends
- Sat, Feb 27th:** *Vigil of Second Sunday of Lent*  
4:00pm (C) +Bob McCormick  
By Peg and Charles Siegle
- Sun, Feb 28th:** *Second Sunday of Lent*  
8:30am (C) +August Militello  
By Mary Gattie  
11:00am (C) +Rita Gabel  
By Dave Winter and Joyce Schmitz

*The Sanctuary Candle in Church is lit this week for Alice Dole as requested by Pete & Cindy Renaldo.  
The Sanctuary Candle in the Rectory Chapel is lit this week for Dave Schmitz's anniversary of death as requested by Joyce and Family.*

**Readings for the Week of February 21st**

- Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15  
Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Mt 16:13-19  
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15  
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32  
Thursday: Est C: 12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12  
Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26  
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48  
Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Rom 8:31b-34/  
Mk 9:2-10



Weekly Collection (02/14): \$2,584.00  
Collection Total for this Fiscal Year:  
\$56,563.60

***We must continue to sanitize the pews, door handles, bathrooms, and other areas of the Church after every Mass. We are in need of volunteers to help us accomplish these tasks. All supplies are in the first pew, with instructions on what needs to be done.***

**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, Tony Andolina, Lena Anzalone, Cindy Gabel Amacher, Tony Andolina, Ann Andzel, 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, Jason Galloway, Mary Gattie, Art Gernatt, Mike Gernatt, Norm Grapes, Patrick Grapes, Sylvia Grapes, Mark Grugel, Ashley Haettich, Bob Holbrook, Robert Hogan, Jeanne Hutchings, Jane Johnson, Daniel Kozub, Rose Kohn, Mark Kozub, Jean Luno, Irma Martin, Sara Mackey Dunn, Andrew Marconi, Lou Marconi, Diane May, Bob Mc Nerney, Millie Muehlbauer, Marty Niefergold, Jean Ott, Holly Pearce, Bonnie Redding, Andrew Remero, Pat Ricotta, Levi Rothfuss, Wesley Schmitt, Kathy Smith, Sr. Lucina Stang, Danielle Stark, Lorraine Stark, Donelle Thomas, Trisha Weiss, Ed Urban, Gary Wentland, Mike Winter.

**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.

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

*So Far 624 Have been sold!*

*Roger Powenski was the winner of the Early Bird Drawing for \$250.*

**33 Day Consecration to St. Joseph**

February 15th-March 19th

In response to the call of our Holy Father Francis, in his Apostolic Letter "Patris Corde" on the 150th Anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church honored this year, we will be holding a diocesan-wide consecration to St. Joseph. To learn more <https://www.buffalodiocese.org/consecration-to-st-joseph>

*Copies of the 33 Day Consecration are available in the back of Church and from the Parish Office.*

**Reconnecting... Virtual Diocesan Youth Conference**

All high school youth are invited to participate on February 26-27. Since we cannot have the Diocesan Youth Convention this year, we will Reconnect virtually instead. National Catholic Speakers Paul Kim and the Doug and Dave Show will challenge and inspire us. Friday night includes time for online small groups. The highlight of our event is Mass with Bishop Michael Fisher on February 27th at 4:30pm, livestreamed from St. Joseph Cathedral. More information may be found at [www icyouthea.org](http://www icyouthea.org) or you may contact Denise York at [youth@icchurchea.org](mailto:youth@icchurchea.org).

### **The Season of Lent**

The forty days of Lent run from Ash Wednesday up to but excluding the Mass of the Lord's Supper. From the beginning of Lent until the Paschal Vigil, the *Alleluia* is not said.

**Abstinence:** All Catholics who have reached their 14th birthday are bound to abstain totally from meat on the following days: Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.

**Fasting:** All Catholics between their 18th and 59th birthdays are also bound to observe the Law of Fast on the following days: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This practice involves limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Light sustenance may be taken on two other occasions in the course of the day.

**Easter Duty:** After they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, all the faithful are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year. This precept must be fulfilled during the Easter season, unless for a good reason it is fulfilled at another time during the year. This obligation may be fulfilled between February 21, 2021 (First Sunday of Lent) and May 30, 2021 (Trinity Sunday).

**Parish Lenten Schedule:**

**Stations of the Cross:**

Held in the Church each Friday of Lent (excluding Good Friday) following the 8:30am Daily Mass.  
Wednesdays at 7pm in the Church starting February 24th.

**Private Confessions:**

Wednesdays from 7-8pm in the Hall starting March 10th.

Thursdays from 12-1pm in the Church starting March 11th.

Private Confessions are available after each daily and Weekend Mass. Please see Father Mitch after Mass if you would like him to hear your Confession.

Private Confessions can also be scheduled by contacting the Office.

**Lenten Penance Service:**

Wednesday March 24th at 7pm in the Parish Hall. Stations of the Cross will also be held in the Hall this evening during the Penance Service.

### **Catholic Charities Message**

When you are troubled, we are here. Are you struggling with hybrid learning, trying to work remotely, having a hard time with the seemingly endless grey that is WNY in winter?

If you are experiencing mental health, familial or marital problems we can help. Catholic Charities offers several different types of support including: marriage counseling, individual psychotherapy, family and group therapy, substance abuse treatment, Diocesan counseling for church ministers, children's clinics, and individual, children and family counseling. To find out more, visit [ccwny.org](http://ccwny.org) and click the "Counseling and Mental Health" tab under Services on the right-hand side. To begin the referral process, call 716-895-1033. If you are located outside of Erie County, call your local Catholic Charities office for counseling or go to [ccwny.org/counseling](http://ccwny.org/counseling) for information and contact number. Hope for All Season.



**There will be a Pastoral Council Meeting on Tuesday February 23rd at 7pm in the Parish Hall. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held on Thursday February 25th.**

### **First Sunday of Lent**

In the first reading, having saved Noah and all who had been on the ark, God establishes his covenant with Noah and his descendants after him. As a sign of this covenant, God placed the rainbow in the clouds.

Saint Peter says that Jesus suffered for us *that he might lead [us] to God*. That's the good news of the Gospel— the doors to salvation in heaven have been opened to us!

Today's Scripture passage about Jesus' 40 days in the desert is from Mark's Gospel, and it is far shorter than that in Matthew or Luke. Mark focuses less on the temptations themselves and ends with the heart of the New Testament message: Jesus says, *This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel*. Jesus' time in the desert was one of preparation for his ministry. We can prepare during Lent for the upcoming Paschal Mystery by thinking of three questions.

First: How have we been saved by God already in our lives? Are there times of trial from which we've been delivered? It's so easy to see only what's in front of us, and the sufferings of the moment. Reflect back on years gone by and actively look for ways that God has delivered. This should serve to deepen our trust in God.

Second: How have we been led to God? How have we been blessed, and saved? What methods of prayer brought us closest to him? Take those lessons and take advantage of them this Lent.

And the third question: How might we best follow the Lord into the desert? Perhaps focusing on all the penitential practices of the season might be a way to open our hearts to the Kingdom. The Kingdom, having been rooted in our hearts, enables us to bring it to others.

As we prepare to receive the Eucharist, let the grace of the sacrament bring us ever closer to further union with our saving Lord.

### **Do you want to Fast this Lent?**

In the words of Pope Francis:

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words; be silent and listen.



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