

## MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday:

4:00 p.m.

Sunday:

8:30 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.

Monday, Tuesday,  
Thursday & Friday:

8:00 a.m.

Wednesday  
NO MASS

**December 8, 2019**

# THE *Epiphany* OF OUR Lord

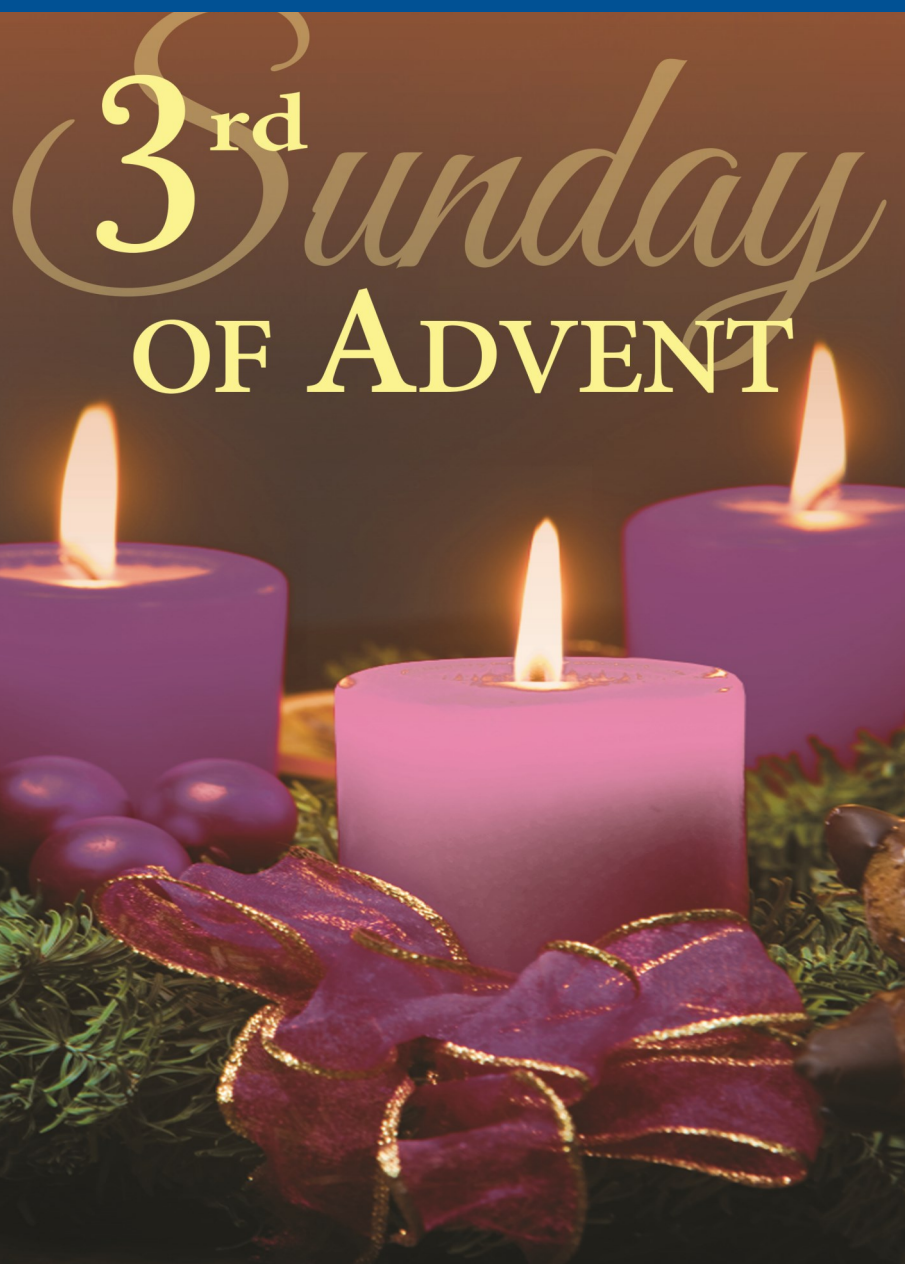
ROMAN  
CATHOLIC  
CHURCH



A PENNSYLVANIA CHARITABLE TRUST  
A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG

**44 PENNSYLVANIA BLVD. • MONESSEN, PA 15062**

[www.eolparish.com](http://www.eolparish.com) • [facebook.com/Epiphany-of-Our-Lord](https://facebook.com/Epiphany-of-Our-Lord)



## 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.

## PARISH STAFF

**Pastor:** Rev. Michael Crookston  
[mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Parochial Vicar:** Rev. Joel Boco  
[jboco@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:jboco@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Music Director:** Gina Brandt  
[gbrandt@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:gbrandt@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Director of Faith Formation:**  
Scott Martin

[smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Bulletin Sec.:** Tara Manderino  
[tmanderino@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:tmanderino@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Maintenance:** Patrick Frederick

## BULLETIN DEADLINE

Any article for the bulletin must be in the office by Monday noon.

## LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

### Saturday, December 14 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Eddie Weckoski by Mom & Dad

### Sunday, December 15 — Third Sunday in Advent

8:30 AM † Charles Sungala by Family

10:30 AM † Evelyn Kowell by Daughter, Paula

### Monday, December 16

8:00 AM † Joe Vizza by Leonard DiPaola, Sr. & Family

### Tuesday, December 17

8:00 AM † James M. Nash by Wife, Betty Nash

### Wednesday, December 18

No Mass

### Thursday, December 19

8:00 AM † Deceased Family Members by Patti Bigi & Family

### Friday, December 20

8:00 AM † Joe Vizza by Mary Jo Smith

### Saturday, December 21 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Nathan and Bruna Campus by Family

### Sunday, December 22 — Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM † James & Mary Zimmaro by Ken & Linda

10:30 AM † Margaret Young by Dr. Young & Family

### Parish Office:

**44 PENNSYLVANIA BLVD**

**MONESSEN, PA 15062**

**Parish Office: 724-684-7661 • Fax: 724-684-8981**

**Church Hall: 724-684-5512**

**Religious Education: 724-929-9300**

### OFFICE HOURS

**Monday – Thursday: 8:30 a.m. – 12; 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.**

**Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

### Ministry Schedule — Dec. 21 & 22

Time	Lector	Eucharistic	Altar Servers
4:00 p.m.	S. Stein	J. Dudas J. Elias L. Henry	S. Puturiero A. Mauro
8:30 a.m.	J. Petritis	L. DeFelices N. Campus S. Campus	T. Todd Z. Tokar
10:30 a.m.	M. Sacco LWC— T. Bucci	W. White K. Imbrescia P. Fantauzzi	J. Sacco M. Guiliford

**Money Counters - Monday, Dec. 16—Team #3 K. Byron**

## With Joy We Await!

This third Sunday of Advent is referred to as Gaudete Sunday meaning “rejoice.” Our readings for today lead us to rejoice in the life that we have and more importantly the promise that we have been given. We start off once again with Isaiah telling us that the future is something that we all can rejoice in. He speaks about how much we are subject to the conditions of weather, and living in a very arid country, this is no surprise. Therefore the provision of water in the wilderness is a common and joyous expression of praise in the books of the prophets. He speaks of the parched land of the desert in full bloom all because of God’s love for us. The coming of water to dry places, no less than the ransom of captives, promises renewed prospects for human survival in a dangerous world.



James in his letter reminds us that just as we cannot predict the weather, we must be patient and wait. He does not liken the “coming of the Lord” to the rains, but rather compares the patience of believers to that of the farmer who must wait for the rains. The rains will not arrive any sooner simply because the farmer wishes it; they will come when they come. So too will it be with the coming of Christ. We all must be patient and simply wait. It is in the gospel for this week that we are given the information about how we are to wait and what we are to do.

We find that John is in prison as Matthew presents our gospel for this week. He is wondering if Jesus is truly the “one” who is to come. The question this leaves us is: how can John the Baptist, Christ’s forerunner and the man Jesus himself greeted as the greatest ever born from a woman, be so unsure now? In a way it is good for us to see that John had to adapt to Jesus’ views, and not Jesus to John’s. Jesus always comes and works in the most unexpected ways.

John’s question must become our own: Is Jesus the One for us, or are we really looking for another? In trying to answer the question of Jesus’ identity we cannot rely only on the authority of others found in creeds or catechisms. Our answer must also come from our own personal experience of Jesus and the good fruit of his life and ministry. Advent is a time when we can open our eyes to see in new ways the presence of Jesus – in good actions, in the holiness of others, in forgiveness and healing. Yes, we see Jesus when we see the fruits of his presence. Living the Gospel, means that we are charged to take up Jesus’ ministry, we cannot ask people to take our word for it; our actions or non-actions speak for us. Either we take up Jesus’ ministry or we don’t. Either people see Jesus in us, or they don’t.

We grow into witnessing to Jesus’ life and mission when we ourselves seek to answer the question, “Are you the one...?” by personally encountering Christ in prayer and opening ourselves to recognizing him in our own and others’ good works. We cannot know someone whom we have never encountered. Nietzsche once said that one of the major obstacles to believing in Christ is that Christians do not reflect the joy of his Resurrection. This Sunday offers us a wonderful opportunity to ask ourselves whether we live our faith joyfully or not. It is sometimes difficult today to be optimistic about the future of our Christian communities, but who said it was ever easy? Jesus performs miracles, and still people doubt. Are we dreaming of a salvation completely out of this world or are we ready to adjust our own dreams to those of God as embodied in the life and ministry of Jesus?

**With Deepest Sympathy** — Condolences are extended to the families of MARY MANDARINO AND ANTHONY MASCETTA. May God grant them eternal rest, and comfort to their families. We commend their souls to rest in the peace of Christ.



## Christmas Giving Tree

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to make this Christmas a little brighter for the children in the Head Start program. I am grateful to all of you for your generosity! Every year it seems that we get more and more gifts to share. Please know that you certainly have helped make many children's Christmas a lot nicer. If you did not get to bring in your gifts



this weekend, you can bring them to the office on Monday.

I think that as a parish family we can feel good about the ways that we reach out into our community and share our goodness.

## Breakfast with Santa

This week we served Breakfast with Santa! I would like to thank the **Epiphany Ladies** for their work in making this event possible. I am grateful to the **Holy Name Society** who did a wonderful job of providing Breakfast for all, and I would like to thank the **FCSLA** for their presence and the snacks they provided. **Mary Dzurik** and **Rita Lucas** did a wonderful job in decorating. All in all we are blessed to have such wonderful people provide opportunities such as this one for all of us to share in. I am grateful to all of you and **Thank You!**

## Choir Notes

### Lessons and Carols

Lessons and Carols was held at Blessed Sacrament

Cathedral on Friday, December 6. Epiphany Choir Director Gina Brandt, and Cantor, Milana Sacco, were part of the choir. Sydney and Victoria Duda participated in the Children's Diocesan Choir.



## Junior Cantor Program

Starting in January, Gina will be starting a "Junior Cantors" program. This is for children in Grades 6—9 who like to sing. Once or twice a month, one or two Junior Cantors will accompany a regular cantor and cantor some of the Mass. If you are interested, please complete the form and turn it in to Gina or drop it in the collection basket.

### Junior Cantor

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Christmas Decorating

We will be decorating the church after 10:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, December 22. Please come and join us.

## Christmas Wafers

The Oplatky, or Christmas Wafers, are available in the back of the church. The wafers are packaged with 4 individual wafers. The cost for a packet is \$3.00. You may also pick them up at the office during the week.

## Bulletin on the App



If you have the church App you may have noticed that the bulletin has not updated. This is done automatically by Lpi, our bulletin publisher. The issue should be corrected within the next week or so. In the meantime, we are uploading from here. Also, the current bulletin can be found on our website. If you're in the app, just click on the website under 'contact us.' It's under the Home tab.

## Advent Penance Services

Although we have had our penance service here at Epiphany, you still have opportunity to avail yourself of this gift of God's forgiveness. There is no regular Saturday confession during the remainder of Advent. Other churches in our region will hold services on the following dates:

December 16	St. Sebastian, Belle Vernon
December 17	St. Anne's, Rostraver
December 19	St. John, Perryopolis

I do hope that many of you will be able to come and share in the Sacrament of Christ's loving forgiveness. All services will be at 7:00 p.m.

## Church Calendars Available

This week you may pick up your calendar for "2020." They will be available for the next few weeks. These **calendars are a great way to keep track of saints days and holy days in the church.** Every year we are given these calendars through the generosity of a few businesses. I want to express our thanks to: **Janosik's Pharmacy, Franks Service Garage, Inc, Dalfonso-Billick and Robert A. Billick Funeral Homes** for their generous support not only this year but in the years past. Be sure to patronize these businesses for their generosity and if you see

## Groups

**The Knights of Columbus** will pray their monthly rosary this Wednesday, **December 18 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Knights Social Hall. Light refreshment will follow. All are invited to come and pray.

### Weekly Collection Dec. 8

Votive Candles:	180
Utility & Energy:	233
Accent	52
Advent Folder	155
Christmas Flowers	687
Christmas	85
Immaculate	
Conception	869
St. Lucy	49
Children & Adult	\$5,739
Collection:	
<b>Total Collection:</b>	<b>\$8,049</b>

## Advent Challenge

Advent is more than the time to prepare our homes for Christmas. It is a time to prepare our hearts. Consider one of the following challenges:

- Do a digital detox for 1 day.
- Hug your family members.
- Pay for someone's order at a coffee shop.
- Let someone go ahead of you in the checkout line.