

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



A PENNSYLVANIA CHARITABLE TRUST
A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG

ROMAN
CATHOLIC
CHURCH

44 PENNSYLVANIA BLVD. • MONESSEN, PA 15062

www.eolparish.com • 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

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Joel Boco
jboco@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Music Director: Gina Brandt
gbrandt@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Director of Faith Formation:
Scott Martin

smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Bulletin Sec.: Tara Manderino
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 7—Vigil

4:00 PM † Deceased Members of the Dastolfo / Brandt Family by Gina & Mike Brandt

Sunday, December 8—Second Week of Advent

8:30 AM † Michael Matush by Wife, Dolores
10:30 AM † Nick, Irene & Nicholas, Jr. Mascetta by Family

Monday, December 9—Immaculate conception

8:00 AM † Joe Vizza by Sister, Rosalie Nicksich
12:00 PM † Micahel Martin by Gregory & Linda Martin

Tuesday, December 10

8:00 AM † Kathryn Petritis Groves by Brother, John

Wednesday, December 11

No Mass

Thursday, December 12

8:00 AM † Nazareth & Susan Victoria by Jim & Carol Sepesky Family

Friday, December 13

8:00 AM † St. Lucy by Patty Bisceglia

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

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. 14 & 15

Time	Lector	Eucharistic	Altar Servers
4:00 p.m.	R. Kozar	J. Gigliotti J. Elias J. Dudas	S. Duda J. Sacco
8:30 a.m.	F. Petrosky	N. Mazzie J. Todd S. Stein	Z. Tokar T. Todd
10:30 a.m.	W. Vlasic	R. Sassak E. Yatchyshyn M. Gigliotti	S. Yatchyshyn E. Yatchyshyn

Money Counters - Monday, Dec. 2—Team #2 V. Saunders

The Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand

Ironically, during this season of Advent when we are supposed to slow down and think about the Hope that Our Lord brings to our lives, we are literally



bombarded with all kinds of messages. The preparations for Christmas are so full of anxiety and frustration that this season loses everything that it is supposed to bring to our lives. John the Baptist tells us to “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” we must beware that we do not lose what this message brings to us.

Isaiah in the first reading tells us about the root of Jesse and how there will be a time of peace between all of God’s creation. These were certainly welcome words given to a people whose world seemed to be collapsing around them. The fear of war and oppression from all sides was a reality and the people were living through years of crisis not only for their own kingdom but also for the many small kingdoms throughout the Middle East. These words from this great prophet were meant to bring hope, he wanted to see his people live in peace and harmony. Unifying people was not only the concern of Isaiah, for St. Paul also reminds us that we all need to strive for unity. His letter implores all of us to live in harmony with one another. We are told to imitate Christ in all that we do. St. Paul is telling us that discipleship is always a matter of imitation. We are all called to live as Christ; doing nothing more or less than what he did. For Paul, the sign of the successful imitation of Christ, as in our reading today is when we live in harmony with all people.

The gospel of Matthew presents us with the prophet who is given the privilege of announcing the Kingdom of God, and John is presented as anything but common. If he would be walking through our streets today, what kind of attention would we give him? Here was a man who left society and chose to live in the wilderness all by himself. He lived on locusts and wild honey and wore camel hair for his clothing. Would we really pay a man like that any attention at all? And yet, in spite of his appearance, John the Baptist was famous in his time. In fact the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus wrote about him and Jesus near the turn of the second century and it appears that John was better known of the two in Palestine during the first century.

Prophets have always been disturbing people, and yet they were people with great tenderness and deep love for their people. They were not afraid to speak out the truth whenever necessary. The role of the prophet is to “prepare the way of the Lord.” Throughout the ages the prophets have kept the faith and hope of their people alive, no matter what. John is certainly one of the great prophets; he was the forerunner of Christ. Shall his voice remain lost in the wilderness, or shall we listen and go get to prepare actively for the coming of Christ?

This is the time of the year when many opportunities to think of others arise. The red kettle and bell ringing remind us that others are less fortunate than we and need our help. At the same time we cannot forget to be mindful of those with whom we live, work, and play, especially at a time when busyness might cause us to be tired and short-tempered and when taking care of our own things might cause us to be shortsighted that we do not see the need of those close to us.

With Deepest Sympathy — Condolences are extended to the family of MARIAN J. ANGELINE. May God grant her eternal rest, and comfort to her family. We commend her soul to rest in the peace of Christ.



Stewardship

Angel Tree

If you took a tag from the Angel Tree, please bring all gifts next week, December 15. This will allow us enough time to get the gifts where they need to be, and give some children a merry Christmas.



Weekly Collection Nov. 24

Votive Candles:	153
Utility & Energy:	65
Accent	178
Advent Folder	1,045
Children & Adult	
Collection:	\$4,757
Collection:	\$6,198
CRS/Bishop's Relief	\$533
Total Collection:	\$6,731

Weekly Collection Dec. 1

Votive Candles:	206
Utility & Energy:	277
Accent	29
Advent Folder	305
Christmas Flowers	314
Children & Adult	
Collection:	\$4,912
Total Collection:	\$6,043

Breakfast

Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus

Next Sunday (Dec. 15) we will give our children the opportunity to have Breakfast with Santa! Santa and Mrs. Claus will be here at Epiphany from 10:00 a.m. until Noon. The cost is **\$5.00 per adult and all children will be free.**



This is a wonderful opportunity for you and your kids and grandchildren to spend time with Santa. Pass the word around to friends and neighbors that Santa and Mrs. Claus will be making a stop here next week!

Around the Diocese

Lessons and Carols

The Belle Vernon Ministerium will hold Lessons and Carols on Sunday, **December 15** at St. Sebastian Church, Belle Vernon. The event will start at **6:30 p.m.** and will feature Scripture and song.



Catholic Charities offers counseling

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg offers faith-based assistance with **anxiety, depression, grief and loss**, interpersonal conflicts, recovery support, parenting and family issues, anger management, and other personal and family issues. Counseling is provided by licensed, professional and experienced therapists. **Fees are low, and many insurances accepted.** For more information or an appointment, call 724-837-1840 or email counseling@dioceseofgreensburg.org.

Magnificent Churches and Weddings

"The Accent On-Air," Magnificent Churches and Weddings, will air on WTAE-TV, **Channel 4 at 2:08 a.m. Dec. 10, 12, 17 and 19.** The show features Bishop Malesic talking about his ad limina trip and meeting with Pope Francis, marriage tips from couples celebrating their 50th anniversaries, two couples who met at ChristLife, a Western Pennsylvania cookie table recipe, magnificent churches, and the inspiring story of an Indiana County woman and the repurposing of wedding gowns for a merciful cause.

Faith

Sacrament of Anointing

This Sunday, December the 8th, we will celebrate the Sacrament of anointing at 2:00 p.m. in the church. I hope that you will be able to come and share in this wonderful Sacrament.



Holy Day of Obligation—December 9



December 9 is a Holy Day of Obligation, celebrating the Immaculate Conception. Mary, the mother of Jesus was born sinless; her soul was immaculate. The official dogma was defined by Pope Pius IX in 1854.

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.

Church Calendars Available

This week you may pick up your calendar for "2020." They will be available for the next few weeks. 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 them, say **Thank You!**

Advent Penance Services

Advent is a time to reflect over our lives in anticipation for the great feast of Christmas. During these four weeks we are given the opportunity to share in the gift of God's forgiveness through the sacrament of reconciliation. As in the years past we will be offering services throughout our region. I hope that you will be able to attend one of these services to be a part of this great and wonderful sacrament. The services are scheduled as follows:



December 12	Epiphany
December 16	St. Sebastian, Belle Vernon
December 17	St. Anne's, Rostraver
December 18	St. John, Perryopolis

I hope that you mark these dates down and make an effort to come and bring your family to this life-giving sacrament.

Student Contests

Missionary Childhood Association

Christmas Artwork Contest Guidelines can be picked up in the office or found at www.eolparish.com. The contest has several categories and is open to young Catholics in grades K-8. Entries must be postmarked or received at the diocese or the MCA online form at <http://info.missio.org/2019entryform> no later than **January 31, 2020.**

Artwork must be original. Media includes crayons pastels, markers, tempera or watercolor paint. No lead or color pencils. Subjects include: The Nativity, Three Wise Men, Shepherds, Mother & Child, and more. Details are on the website.