



January 8, 2012

The Epiphany of the Lord

Our Lady of Grace Church

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg | A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
 1011 Mt. Pleasant Road | Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601

Liturgical Schedule

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil: 4 PM
 Sunday Masses: 8:30, 10:30 AM
Weekday and Holy Day Masses: Please see inside bulletin.



Parish Office.....724-838-9480
 Fax.....724-838-1842
 Religious Formation.....724-832-6730
 Aquinas Academy.....724-834-7940
 St. Vincent de Paul Helpline.....724-837-5154
 St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank.....724-836-0175
 Albanese Hall.....724-836-8157
 Catholic Charities Pregnancy.....1-800-241-7360
www.ourladyofgracechurch.org

Rev. Paul A. Lisik, Pastor

Rev. Larry J. Kulick,
In residence

Hollie Uccellini,
Pastoral Associate
 Marisa Cazden,
Music Minister
 Dorothy Skoloda,
Secretary
 Donna Stewart,
Secretary



Greg Petrucci,
Director of Faith Formation
 Katrina Coleman,
*Director of Young Adults
 & Youth Ministry*
 Tom Stumpo,
Maintenance Supervisor
 Dave Stumpo,
Maintenance

Mission Statement

Our Lady of Grace, founded in 1910 as an Italian ethnic parish, is now a territorial parish of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Greensburg to which all people are welcome. The responsibility of each member of Our Lady of Grace is to hear the Word of God and live it by sharing in worship, especially at Eucharist; by nurturing our Catholic faith through formation and prayer; by reaching out to identify and serve the needs of our parish and the community; and by welcoming others into our faith community. Through our actions, we strive to share, and to encourage others to share, in the fullness of God's kingdom.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 5:30-6 PM or until finished.

Baptisms

By appointment only. Please call the Parish Office at least four months in advance of the birth. A class for parents is required to reflect on the meaning of the sacrament, to review the ceremony, and to highlight the importance of the family's commitment to practicing the Catholic Faith.

Sponsorship Forms

Forms for our members to serve as sponsors for Baptism and Confirmation must be filled out in person at the Parish Office. To serve as a sponsor, you must be at least 16 years old and a practicing Catholic who has received Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. If you are married, it must be within the guidelines of the Catholic Church. Please call the Parish Office to make an appointment to fill out the form.

Weddings

Please call the Parish Office at least six months in advance. Do not set a date until you have contacted the parish priest. Pre-marriage preparation classes are required and are available in a couple of forms.



TODAY, WE, AS A PARISH, CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD.

This feast is an important event in Christ's life which brought about a change in the world which affects our lives today.

It's hard to talk about Epiphany without sounding like we're exaggerating. Today is a day of superlatives, Epiphany is the grandest, merriest, brightest and best day of Christmastime.

According to legend, the wise men were considered royal personages. The names were traditionally given as Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar. Melchior was supposedly an old man with long hair and a white beard. His Gift of **Gold** was said to be a testimony to the royalty of Christ. Caspar is usually pictured as young and beardless. Tradition says his gift of **In-cense** was a token of Christ's divine nature. Balthazar is pictured as black complexion with a full beard. The **Myrrh** he held is said to have prefigured the death of Christ.

Epiphany means "**appearance**" and "**revelation**" and "**manifestation.**" In the gospel stories of Epiphany, we hear that God appears in creation. God is revealed in a star, in the waters of a river, in the shining skies, on the wings of a dove, in stone jars of everyday water.

In many families, a famous Epiphany tradition is to have a party in honor of the visit of the Magi. A special cake in which a bean or coin has been hidden — is served. The lucky person who finds the bean or coin in her or his slice of cake is crowned queen or king for the evening! This person leads everyone in the dancing procession that tops off the fun.

The head of the house has two major responsibilities. One is to host the Carnival party before Lent begins. The other is to lead the blessing of the home for the new year. The numerals of the year are written with chalk over the front door. The initials of the legendary names of the Magi are added — Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. The home is dedicated to hospitality.

In a sense, at Epiphany all of us are queens and kings. In baptism, we are anointed to be God's royal people. Now the star shines over us, we who are baptized, we who bear the name of Christ.

CHURCH ETIQUETTE: *"Unless someone shows me ..."*

When you arrive in church after Mass has begun (i.e. late) stop in the vestibule to see where the liturgy has progressed. During the Scripture readings, you should not walk down the aisle to a seat. Wait until the end of the reading and enter during the Responsorial Psalm or the Alleluia. Likewise, during the homily ... wait until it's over before walking down the aisle. And now you know!

2012 CALENDARS: Through the courtesy of Leo M. Bacha Funeral Home Inc., we once again have our parish Catholic calendars available in our Gathering Area. The ushers will help distribute them after the Masses this weekend. **We thank the Bacha Funeral Home for their generosity and the beautiful Catholic calendars.**

From the Pastor

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RECENTLY, I THANKED YOU for the generosity that you showed to us, your priests, at this time of the year. It is greatly appreciated and makes Fr. Larry and myself feel

very much a part of the family here at Our Lady of Grace. Today, I want to thank you on behalf of the parish for your generosity. The totals for the collections are printed in the bulletin following these grateful words. We are using your gift to bring up to date our diocesan assessments, among which are cathedraticum, insurance, Catholic Accent, and Catholic Schools subsidy. Your generosity allows us to continue to improve our parish life and ministry. I ask you to continue to be as generous in your weekly and special offerings so that we can stay ahead of our expenses and to please remember you are giving to God's church and our parish. Thank you!

Christmas	\$ 22,706
Sunday, December 25	\$ 9,691
Christmas flowers	\$ 2,409
Children & Family Services	\$ <u>4,333</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 39,139



TOMORROW, MONDAY, JANUARY 9, WE CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD.

When Advent began we heard the words of Isaiah: "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down!" Jesus goes into the Jordan River to be baptized by John. Suddenly the skies open. God's Spirit comes down in the form of a dove. Then, God speaks for everyone to hear: "This is my beloved."

In the fifth century, Bishop Maximus of Turin wrote that we have every reason to celebrate this day with the joy of Christmas: "At Jesus' birth, His mother, Mary, held her child close to her heart. So, the Father holds His beloved Son for all people to adore. Jesus is baptized so all Christians may follow Him with confidence.

In Hebrew, the name of Jesus is Joshua. This name means Savior. A thousand years before the time of Jesus, in the days of the Exodus, after Moses died, a man named Joshua became the leader of the Hebrew people. Joshua led the people through the Jordan River and into the Promised Land.

Our Savior Jesus is a new Joshua. Jesus leads us into the Jordan of baptism. We pass through the water to enter a new life. Sweetened dairy foods such as cheesecake and eggnog are customary during Christmas time in honor of our Savior, who leads us into "a land flowing with milk and honey."

THE NEXT BAPTISM PREP CLASS will be Monday, January 9, 7 p.m., in Albanese Hall. If this is your first child or it has been five years since your last child has been baptized, you must attend this class. Contact Hollie at the parish office for more information.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS



L.I.F.E. SESSION for JANUARY will occur on Sunday, January 15, from 4-7:30 p.m. As we gather for the first time in the New Year, we will continue our look at prayer. St. Paul tells us to pray without ceasing and so we will take time to learn how we can make our lives a prayer. How can we turn our prayer relationship with God into action?

We look forward to welcoming you back for the four sessions we have left for the winter and spring of 2012. All are welcome. See you at 4 p.m. on Sunday, January 15.

HOW WILL WE KNOW IF THERE IS A WEATHER-RELATED CANCELLATION. If we are forced to have a cancellation of a L.I.F.E. session or a Sacrament Preparation session due to inclement weather, every effort will be made to generate an e-mail to all registered families who have supplied an address to the Faith Formation Office. Also, cancellation information will be posted on the Pittsburgh TV stations, WPXI, Channel 11, and WTAE, Channel 4, and will be listed as *Our Lady of Grace, Greensburg*.



NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

will be celebrated in our country January 9-14, 2012. Please ask Our Lord for more dedicated, holy priests, deacons and consecrated men and women. May they be inspired by Jesus Christ, supported by our faith community, and respond generously to God's gift of a vocation.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME! Parents do a wonderful task every Sunday in guiding their children from infancy to be aware of the wonderful surroundings of the church as they teach their children to be attentive at Mass. Sure, there are a few times when a parent has to temporarily walk out of church with a crying baby or young child, and come back shortly after the child is settled — this is normal. I would encourage families with young children to sit closer to the altar so that the children can “see up close.” Young children become fascinated with watching, praying and singing at Mass, and therefore they are learning that their family is a part of God's family. Please remember that we have Children's Liturgy of the Word for children every Sunday, at the 10:30 a.m. Mass. This is a wonderful experience for the children because Scripture Readings are explained to them at their level.

ATTENTION LITURGICAL MINISTERS: The next ministry schedule for altar servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors will be compiled in the near future. Please let the office know of any changes in preferences and availability. We will also need to know if you are interested in serving for any of the Masses during the Easter season. Either call the office or e-mail dstewart@dioceseofgreensburg.org. Thank you.

COMMUNITY NEWS

- St. John the Evangelist Church is sponsoring a pancake & sausage breakfast on Sunday, January 15, 8 a.m.-noon. Menu includes pancakes (your choice of regular, apple or blueberry), sausage patties, applesauce, orange juice and beverage. Second helpings of pancakes at your request. Cost is \$5/adults; \$3/children under 12 years of age. Takeouts available. Phone 724-537-2251.
- High school juniors or seniors and their families are invited to a “Get Acquainted Day Open House” at St. Vincent College, Latrobe, on Saturday, January 21. Buffet breakfast and registration 8-9 a.m., followed by an introduction to St. Vincent College and a student panel. The day will conclude at noon. Find out more about this top-ranked Catholic, Benedictine, liberal arts college. Listen to financial aid and admission presentations, meet faculty, administrators and coaches and take a campus tour. For information or reservations, phone 1-800-782-5549, e-mail admission@stvincent.edu, or register online at www.stvincent.edu.
- Auditions for the April 15 Easter Concert of St. Vincent's Camerata will be held at Saint Vincent College on January 13, 14, and 15. The concert will include the Solemn Vespers of Mozart with the Academy Chamber Orchestra of Pittsburgh. For an appointment contact Fr. Stephen Concordia: stephen.concordia@stvincent.edu or phone 724-805-2481. The Camerata rehearses Tuesday evenings 6:30-8:30 p.m.

WHY IS THERE A ONE-HOUR FAST BEFORE MASS? IS GUM INCLUDED IN THE FAST?

The one-hour Eucharistic fast was announced by Pope Paul VI in 1964 and written into the Code of Canon Law in 1983. All food and drink, except for water and medicine, are to be abstained from for at least one hour before reception of Holy Communion. Possible exceptions from the Eucharistic fast are the elderly, ill, and those who care for them. It is not unusual for us to refrain from eating in anticipation of an excellent meal. The Most Holy Eucharist is the most excellent meal in which we can partake. When we receive Holy Communion, we are receiving the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ. Tertullian, a theologian of the early Church, taught that the Eucharist is to be taken “before all food,” as a sign of its excellence (*Imensae Caritatis*, #3). By observing the Eucharistic fast, we are preparing our bodies and soul to share in the heavenly feast of the Mass. Gum is classified as a food and as such is included in the Eucharistic fast. Imagine coming to your mother's dinner table with gum in your mouth! **Unless you have a medical reason for chewing gum, please remove it before entering the Church.**

PARISH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, Jan. 8

Donut Sunday (supplied by Nat Pantalone Funeral Home)
— after 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Masses

9:15 a.m. RCIA
6 p.m. HSYM — Youth Loft

MONDAY, Jan. 9

7 p.m. Baptism prep — Albanese Hall

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 11

10 a.m. Bible Sharing — Albanese Hall
6:30 p.m. MSYM — Albanese Hall

THURSDAY, Jan. 12

10 a.m. Legion of Mary — Albanese Hall

SUNDAY, Jan. 15

9:15 a.m. RCIA
4 p.m. L.I.F.E. — Albanese/Shepherds/Church

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

The Meadows

Original Frozen Custard

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THIS FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, IS THE FEAST OF ST. HILARY, bishop, doctor of the Church (c. 315-368).

Hilary may have become a saint because of one simple practice. He began every conversation and action with a prayer. He was able to do great things that way. Hilary was born in the city of Poitiers in Gaul (now part of France). His parents were wealthy pagans, but he decided as a young man that he couldn't believe in a whole collection of gods. He believed there must be only one God who had created everything. Hilary discovered the scriptures and became a Christian.

At age 35, Hilary was chosen bishop of Poitiers. At that time, bishops were elected by the local clergy and then acclaimed by all the people of the community. Hilary, a humble person, tried to decline the honor, but this made him seem like an even better choice to the people of his diocese.

Hilary soon became known as a wise leader. He was also a great speaker. Unfortunately, the emperor decided that Hilary was a troublemaker, and he had the bishop exiled. Hilary spent three years in Phrygia (now central Turkey). Although, he suffered many hardships, he remained cheerful, which is the meaning of his name. He spent this time writing a great work on the Trinity. He also wrote the earliest known Latin hymns.

Finally, Hilary was allowed to return to Gaul. The whole city of Poitiers turned out to cheer him when he arrived. He spent the rest of his life writing. He has been honored with the title "Doctor of the Divinity of Christ" (the word "doctor" here means "wise teacher").

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Jan. 7

4 p.m. Arditi/DiPaolo families by Cora Strizzi

Sunday, Jan. 8

8:30 a.m. Clara Kulczak by husband, Bob

10:30 a.m. For the living and deceased members of
Our Lady of Grace Parish

Monday, Jan. 9

6:45 a.m. Anita Tridico by Cindy Franzi

Tuesday, Jan. 10

6:45 a.m. Aquilina Nigro Nava by Mary Pedrazzoli

Wednesday, Jan. 11

6:45 a.m. Viola Jean Nalepa by Pete/Myrna Nalepa

Thursday, Jan. 12

6:45 a.m. John Panek by wife/family

Friday, Jan. 13

6:45 a.m. Geanna DiCriscio by Robert/Dorothy Gurnick

Saturday, Jan. 14

4 p.m. Sue/Teresa Cost by M/M Peter Cost

Sunday, Jan. 15

8:30 a.m. Robert Fry/Marc Fry by family

10:30 a.m. For the living and deceased members of
Our Lady of Grace Parish



Bible Sharing

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11; Acts 10:34-38
or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20 or 1 Sm 1:1-8 and 1 Sm 1:9-20;
Mk 1:21-28 or Mk 1:14-20 and Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Mk 2:13-17

Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40;
1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

\$ 11,144.17 was collected on January 1.

*In order to meet our ordinary expenses, Our Lady of Grace
needs about \$17,500 per week in the regular collection.*

WE HAVE OPENED THE MASS BOOK FOR 2012. Request sheets may be found in the back of the church. *Please pay attention to the directions for filling out the forms.* All Mass Intentions have to be submitted in writing on the reservation sheet. **No Masses will be scheduled over the phone.** Thank you for your understanding.