

**SCHEDULE OF MASSES
AND SERVICES FOR THE WEEK**

MARCH 22—4TH SUNDAY OF LENT—LAETARE SUNDAY

4:30 pm **Sat Choir** For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish
 9:00 am George & Anna Sepic—George & Doris Sepic
 Liturgy of the Word for Children
 11:00 am Joseph Lancas—Teresa Trozzi & Family

MONDAY, MARCH 23

8:00 am August & Anna Kuhar—Daughter, Mary Ralston
 After Mass: Miraculous Medal Novena & Rosary
 6:30 pm Stations of the Cross for Children
 7:00 pm *Lenten Penance Service*
Epiphany of Our Lord, Monessen

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

No Morning Mass Today

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25—ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

9:30 am *School* (Anniv) Elsie Falibota—Mary’s Ministry of Care
 6:30 pm Evening Prayer & Benediction

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

8:00 am (Anniv) Tom Hackenson—Joan & John Ciccarelli
 7:00 pm *Lenten Penance Service*
Holy Family, West Newton

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

8:00 am Deceased of the Stevenson & Fuller Families—M/M
 Randy Stevenson
 2:15 pm Stations of the Cross for Children
 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross and Benediction

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

11:30 am Sacrament of Penance

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

4:30 pm Deceased of the Mayerchak & Zucconi Families—Joan & Family

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

9:00 am *Choir* For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish
 Liturgy of the Word for Children
 11:00 am John & Mary Semancik—Ciccarelli & Wozniak Families

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS—SERVERS &
MASTER OF CEREMONIES**

Weekdays, Mar. 23, 26, 27 8:00 am T. McCullough—D. Kossol
 Wednesday Mar. 25 9:30 pm *School Mass*
Evening Prayer 6:30 pm D. Kossol
Friday, Mar. 27 Stations 7:00 pm D. Kossol, G. McLaughlin, C. Iacobi
 Saturday, Mar. 28 4:30 pm M. Lowe—G. McLaughlin
 (MC) M. Couser
 Sunday, Mar. 29 9:00 am J. & D. Columbus
 (MC) E. Russell
 11:00 am J. & S. Pokol
 (MC) E. Pokol

LECTORS COORDINATOR MINISTERS

Wednesday, Mar. 25

6:30 **Volunteer Needed**

Saturday, Mar. 28

4:30 D. Free M. Free D. Stasko, J. Moody, J. Barger
 S. Battaglia, **Volunteer**, C. Farrier

Sunday, Mar. 29

9:00 T. Verin T. Betters P. Morigi, S. Wawro, **Volunteer**
 C. Peterson, S. & K. Rygiel
 11:00 K. McLaughlin L. Forbeck J. Russell, D. Cooper, L. Keene
 C. Zoppetti, E. Studnicki, S. Waldbaum

Second Collection next Weekend is for the **CATHOLIC ACCENT**, our Diocesan Newspaper.

SUNDAY COUNTERS:

Mar. 22—C. Shernisky, B. Forbeck, D. & G. Sepic
 Mar. 29—T. Rodriguez, S. & S. Zolock, J. Picchiarini

SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS Please remember in your prayers those who died last week: **JOSEPH MUCCINO** and **FLORENCE FABRIZIANI**, our parishioners; and **VIRGINIA DILEGGE**, mother of Alan L. Dilegge, our parishioner. We extend our sympathy to their families. May they rest in peace.

PARISH ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Monday - Rel. Ed., Grades 1—5, School, 6:15 pm
 - Valley of Hope, Hall, 8:00 pm
 Tuesday - Parish Festival Meeting, Parish Center, 6:30 pm
 Wednesday - Choir, Church, 7:00 pm
 - RCIA, Parish Center, 7:00 pm
 Sunday - Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner, Parish Hall, 12:00 pm—
 4:00 pm

Stewardship of Treasure

	Sunday Stewardship	Needed for Budget	Over/Under + / -
Mar. 14/15	\$9,661.15	\$9,200.00	+\$461.15
Fiscal Year to Date	\$342,961.05	\$340,400.00	+\$2,561.05

Easter Flower collection—\$1,759.00

DIOCESAN LENTEN APPEAL

	This Week	To Date
No. Families	50	50
Pledged	\$7,960.00	\$7,960.00

CHILDREN & YOUTH ENVELOPES

This past week over 250 boxes of envelopes were mailed to students who did not pick up their envelopes from the vestibule over the past several months. Please, if you are not going to use the envelopes, return them to the Parish Office.

Envelopes are assigned to all student parishioners in Grades 1 thru 12. This policy was initiated to help instill in our youth the practice of supporting the Church. Parents are asked to help their children understand the necessity of Stewardship to the Church.

We are reminded of Stewardship many times in Scripture: Romans 12:13, 20; 1 Corinthians 13:3; 16:2; 2 Corinthians 8 & 9; Galatians 6:6, 10; Ephesians 4:28; Philippians 4:14-19; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; 6:17-19; Titus 3:1, 8; Hebrews 13:16; James 2:14-16; I John 3:17-18 all offer us a great deal of instruction on giving. Take the time to look up and read these Scripture texts. Remember that St. Paul does tell us that God loves a cheerful giver!

YEAR OF ST. PAUL MASSES AND LECTURES In 2007, Pope Benedict XVI declared 2009 as a Pauline Year. Designed to celebrate the bimillennium of the birth of St. Paul, the Pope encouraged the Year of St. Paul to include a series of liturgical, cultural, and ecumenical events in dioceses throughout the world. The Year of St. Paul will be commemorated in the Diocese of Greensburg with a series of Masses and Lectures scheduled for Sunday, March 29—Tuesday, March 31, in various locations. Fr. Stephen E. Bossi, CSP, will serve as Homilist and Lecturer at these events. For more information log onto www.dioceseofgreensburg.org. Funding is underwritten by the Catholic Foundation of Greensburg.

BETTER BIRTHDAYS is being organized to provide the opportunity for young children in need to celebrate their birthdays. Volunteers are needed to make this project successful. If you are looking for a way to help someone in need, this is your opportunity. Please read page 3 of today's bulletin and fill out any information that you feel would benefit a child in need. Questions? Call Justine Russell at 724-929-4954.

PARISH FESTIVAL 2009—This Tuesday, March 24, all those interested in helping with the Parish Festival on June 14 are invited to the Parish Center at 6:30 pm to meet with the Festival Chairperson, Jon Wasicek and his co-Chairperson, Susan Raymond. Many jobs need to be filled, so many volunteers are needed if this year's Festival is to be another great success!

SPRING CLEANING THE CHURCH

We have the buckets; we have the rags; we also have the various cleaning solutions! But what we don't have and what we need. . . is you and your time!

So, won't you come and help to clean our church. The cleaning dates are Tuesday, March 24, Wednesday, March 26, Tuesday, March 31 and Thursday, April 2.

Cleaning will begin at 9:00 a.m. If there is a funeral on any of these days, other arrangements will be made.

BETHLEHEM CHRISTIAN FAMILIES will be selling Crucifixes, religious art work, and rosaries, all made of olive wood which is native to Israel and Bethlehem, this weekend of March 21 & 22 after all Masses in the Parish Hall. Since tourism has greatly depleted, Christian families in the Holy Land, who depend on tourists, have been greatly affected. Sale of these goods will help them and give you the opportunity to have "something"

Annunciation of the Lord

March 25,

WHY WAS MARY TROUBLED?

Dear Padre,

Why was Mary troubled when the angel told her she would be the Mother of God? Didn't she know that God would make it all work out OK? Am I being too picky when I read this story in Luke's Gospel?



Troubled Too

Dear Troubled,

You are not being picky at all, in fact I think you have hit upon a piece of the story most people don't consider. Luke tells the story (Luke 1:26-38) in a very particular way. Those who knew the Old Testament would have understood what Luke was doing. Let's look for a moment at the Old Testament to appreciate the Annunciation.

In the Book of Exodus, Moses is called to be the leader of the Hebrew slaves at the burning bush (Exodus 3:1-4:17). There is a certain pattern to that story: 1) There is *unexpectedness* about the event, it startles the person; 2) Moses is given a *difficult task*; 3) he *objects* that he is not capable to fulfilling the mission; 4) but God answers the objections with a *word of assurance*; and 5) finally a *sign* is given. This same pattern is found whenever Israel is at a "turning point" and someone quite ordinary is called to become quite extraordinary. We see the pattern with Gideon in the Book of Judges (Judges 6), Isaiah (Isaiah 6), Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1), and the situation is similar with Mary.

Luke invites us to recall that Mary is like the great liberators of the Hebrew people (Moses and Gideon) and she is the prophet, *par excellence*, like Isaiah and Jeremiah. The prophets of the Old Testament brought God's Word to all ages. As an ordinary young woman about to be married, she could not see how God's plan would work, but like her predecessors in the Bible, she was willing to say "yes" to God's plan. That made her extraordinary.

The story reminds us of how extraordinary it is when we say "yes" to God's plan, even though it may not make a bit of sense to us. Knowing this background about Luke's account of the Annunciation tells us that the pattern is the same in every age. Only the response is up to us.

The Padre

Fr. William J. Parker, C. Ss.R

SAINT SEBASTIAN CHURCH

Better Birthday Project

Sponsored by: Saint Sebastian's Better Birthday Committee

Children delight in celebrating their birthdays and in these hard times, our goal is to help those less fortunate by providing Birthday gifts for children ages 1-12.



Please provide the following information for the child you are recommending for a gift with a suggested \$20 value.

Gifts will be distributed on a monthly basis based on birth dates. However, we will solicit names on an ongoing basis saving the child's name until the month of their birthday.

Having a name on the Birthday Cake DOES NOT GUARANTEE A GIFT. The success of the program relies on the generosity of the parish and community to provide gifts.

ONLY ONE NAME PER FORM

Child's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Birth Date: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Parent's Phone: _____

Current Age (cannot be older than 11): _____ Gender: _____

Likes and sizes: _____

Code No. _____

Submitted by: Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Would you be picking up and delivering the gift to the child? Yes _____ No _____

The delivery of gifts to be announced. You will be notified if a gift is available for the person you registered.

ALL INFORMATION IS KEPT CONFIDENTIAL

Please return this form to: Saint Sebastian Church, 801 Broad Avenue, Belle Vernon, PA 15012

It may also be placed in the collection basket in a sealed, envelope marked "Birthday Project."

Contact Justine Russell at 724-929-4954 for information or to volunteer.

Additional forms can be found in our pamphlet racks.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross are prayed during Lent. All are invited to attend these services. Please check the bulletin for changes in the schedule. If there is no school, the children's Stations of the Cross will be cancelled. The schedule is as follows:



Monday, March 23, 6:30 pm
STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR CHILDREN

Friday, March 27, 2:15 pm
STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR CHILDREN

Friday, March 27, 7:00 P.M.
STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Followed by
BENEDICTION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT

LENTEN EVENING PRAYER



Evening Prayer is prayed each Wednesday during Lent at 6:30 p.m. in Church, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Evening Prayer is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, the official prayer of the Church. It is prayed at various hours of the day by priests, deacons and men and women in many religious communities. There is a Prayer Basket for your special intentions. We will

place these intentions before the altar and make intercession for them each Wednesday throughout the season of Lent. All are invited to join in this "sanctification" of the hours of our daily lives during these weeks of Lent.

2009 DAY by DAY LENTEN BOOKLETS

The LITTLE BLACK BOOK for adults and the LITTLE PURPLE BOOK for young people are again offered this year. These Lenten booklets, with prayers and reflections for this Lenten season, are available for \$1.00 each at the entrances to the Church. Please place your offering in the envelope provided. Envelopes may be placed in the collection basket or brought to the Parish Office or dropped in the night deposit box.

AREA LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES



Monday, March 23—7:00 p.m.
Epiphany of Our Lord, Monessen
(Main Church)

Thursday, March 26—7:00 p.m.
Holy Family Church, West Newton

Monday, March 30—7:00 p.m.
Saint Sebastian, Belle Vernon

Thursday, April 2—7:00 p.m.
Church of St. Anne, Rostraver

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Sponsored by
BOY SCOUT TROOP
1543

NEXT SUNDAY,
MARCH 29, 2009

From 12-Noon until 4:00 pm
St. Sebastian Parish Hall
Adults—\$6.00 and Children—\$4.00
Menu includes: Spaghetti, meat balls,
bread/butter, salad, drink & dessert.
Take-out available, bring your own
container.



ST. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL CASH BASH

Saint Sebastian PTG Board, School Staff & School Families wish to thank all who participated in the Cash Bash held on Saturday, March 7. If you have a ticket with one of the winning numbers below please bring your ticket to the school office and sign for your prize. Cash Bash Winning Numbers are: 151, 972, 444, 713, 631, 848, 735, 818, 037, 551, 820, 894, 552, 013, 608, 761, 970, 532, and 046. Thank you for your support of Saint Sebastian School.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE will meet on Thursday, April 16 at 7:00 pm in the Parish Center. Please mark your calendars for this event.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THE SICK OF OUR PARISH especially

Leda Arrigoni, Sister Mary Vera Bartley, Joseph Beresik, Donna Biagini, Peter Carrozza, Jenna Christner, Irene Colborn, Neil Cope, Alex Danyi, Darlene Engle, Thomas W. Galley, Jr., Madison Marie Gardner, Stanley Gates, Rudy Halgas, Betty Jean Henderson, Philomena Iacovangelo, Barbara Kubik, Debbie Kurtis, Mary Ann Lenio, Ann Krossoff, Rev. Leonard McAlpin, Kathleen McCullough, Mike Mendicino, Janet Misenko, William Molnar, Sr., Mary B. Nagy, Joseph Naylor, Karen O'Neil, Eleanor Pidanich, Stella Povlick, Jemma Premus, George Rue, Mary Ann Rocco, Virginia Salko, Barbara Sedlak, Joseph Semancik, Steve Semancik, Loretta Senich, Guido Simboli, Afton Smereczniak, Joseph Smith, Patti Smith, Mary B. Snyder, Darla Staff, Chuckie Stringhill, Joseph Turcheck, Jim Webb. Lord, we ask that you bless our friends who are sick. Give them strength in body, courage in spirit, and patience in pain. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

COLLEGE FAIR Duquesne University's Graduate College Fair will be held next Sunday. March 29 from 1:30—4:00 pm in the Duquesne Union Ballroom. Current college students and professionals can meet with graduate admissions representatives. Questions? Call 412-396-6222.

SPAGHETTI DINNER—The Knights of Columbus Council 3026 will hold a Spaghetti & Meat Ball Dinner today, Sunday, March 22 in Roger's Hall of the Church of the Seven Dolours in Yukon from 12-Noon until 5:00 pm. Cost is \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children 5 thru 12. Take-outs are available.

Attention: If you have a concern about sexual abuse of a child or young person by anyone in a parish or diocesan position—clergy, volunteer or paid staff—please contact Bishop Brandt's delegate for matters of sexual misconduct. He may be reached at 724-837-0901, ext. 221.