

# SCHEDULE OF MASSES AND SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

**NOVEMBER 29—FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

4:30 pm **Sat.** (Birth) Dennis Zucconi—Wife, Joan & Family  
 9:00 am *Choir* Deceased Members—Holy Name Society  
 11:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30—ST. ANDREW**

8:00 am Paul & Helen Free—David & Mary Free  
 After Mass: Miraculous Medal Novena & Rosary

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1**

*No Morning Mass Today*

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2**

9:30 am *School Mass* Betty Houseman—Sister, Helen Biksey & Family

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3—ST. FRANCIS XAVIER**

8:00 am (Anniv) Andrew Senich—Wife, Loretta

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4—ST. JOHN of DAMASCUS**

8:00 am Living & Deceased of Mazzei Family—M/M Dom Mazzei

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5**

11:30 am Sacrament of Penance

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

4:30 pm For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6**

9:00 am (Anniv) Susan Carson—Parents  
 11:00 am (Birth) Jennie Ciferno—Family  
*Sacrament of Baptism*

### LITURGICAL MINISTERS—SERVERS & MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Weekdays, Nov. 30, Dec. 3, 4 8:00 am G. Iacoboni  
*Wednesday, December 2* 9:30 am *School Mass*  
 Saturday, Dec. 5 4:30 pm M. Fabean—H. Heilman (MC) B. Antal  
 Sunday, Dec. 6 9:00 am A. Osiol—S. Anderson (MC) D. Kossol  
 11:00 am S. & J. Pokol (MC) K. Pokol

<b>LECTORS</b>	<b>COORDINATOR</b>	<b>MINISTERS</b>
<b>Saturday, Dec. 5</b> 4:30 D. Free	S. Zolock	M. Free—S. Zolock
<b>Sunday, Dec. 6</b> 9:00 B. Anderson	D. Seman	D. Atkinson—P. Morigi
11:00 L. Keene	M. Druciak	J. Morris—E. Pokol

**Second Collection this Weekend** is for the collection for the CATHOLIC ACCENT, our diocesan newspaper. **Next weekend** is the annual collection for CHRISTMAS FLOWERS for the church sanctuary.

**SUNDAY COUNTERS:**

Nov. 29—T. Rodriguez, L. Toth, S. Schussler, S. Wawro, and S. Mavrakis  
 Dec. 6—J. Ciccarella, R. Melnick, R. Ritson, A. & M.A. Cialone

**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30. THE OFFICE WILL REOPEN ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1 AT 9:00 A.M.**

**SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS** Please remember in your prayers those who died last week: AGNES FIDNARIK, our parishioner. We extend our sympathy to her family. May she rest in peace.

**PARISH ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK**  
See December Calendar in Today's bulletin

## Stewardship of Treasure

	Sunday Stewardship	Needed for Budget	Over/Under + / -
<b>Nov. 21/22</b>	\$8,765.31	\$9,800.00	-\$1,034.69
<b>Fiscal Year to Date</b>	\$183,072.65	\$205,800.00	-\$22,727.35
Campaign for Human Development & Catholic Relief Services—\$1,249.00			
<b>Today's Challenge, Tomorrows Hope</b>			
Goal: \$720,000.00			
	This Week	To Date	
No. Families	21	120	
Pledged	\$26,025.00	\$439,140.00	
Paid	\$ 2,875.00	\$ 39,785.00	

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THE SICK OF OUR PARISH especially** Leda Arrigoni, Paula Baker, Sister Mary Vera Bartley, Joseph Beresik, Donna Biagini, Greg Brooks, Peter Carrozza, Jenna Christner, Irene Colborn, Alex Danyi, Michael DeFrancisco, Edward Drotos, Ernest Ehlers, Darlene Engle, Joan Eversburg, Michael Fenyar, Thomas W. Galley, Jr., Madison Marie Gardner, Mary Gira, Rudy Halgas, Betty Jean Henderson, Janice Hill, Ann Husovitz, Philomena Iacovangelo, Marie Koliscak, Barbara Kubik, Debbie Kurtis, Ann Krossoff, Stanley Lubinski, Fr. Leonard McAlpin, Kathleen McCullough, Mike Mendicino, Janet Misenko, William Molnar, Sr., Mary B. Nagy, Joseph Naylor, Karen O'Neil, Joanne Pavalonis, Stella Povlich, George Rue, Mary Ann Rocco, Mathew Russell, Joylyn Sabolek, Barbara Sedlak, Steve Semancik, Loretta Senich, Guido Simboli, Joseph Smith, Darla Staff, Frank Stancato, Chuckie Stringhill, Clara Tonarelli, 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.

**NOTICE TO PARISHIONERS:** For your safety, please, only cross the street at the crosswalks painted on the street. There are safety areas on Henry Street, Fayette Street and Broad Avenue. To prevent an accident, use the crosswalks provided by the North Belle Vernon Borough.

**LIFE LINE SCREENING will take place here at Saint Sebastian on Saturday, December 12. Pre-registration is required. Call 1-800-679-5192. Source code: ISC6323.** Life Line Screening is the leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings in the U.S. Trusted by hospitals nationwide for Stroke/Carotid Artery Screening, Heart Rhythm Screening, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening, Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening and Osteoporosis Screening. Space is limited so please call today.

**HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS** We are updating our list of those parishioners who are either homebound or in nursing homes. If there is anyone in your family who is not on our visiting list at this time, please call Betty Fundy at the Parish Center at 724-929-9300.

# ADVENT

This Sunday we begin the season of “looking forward” in our Church, the season of Advent. To many the first thought that leaps to mind may well be: “I can’t believe that Christmas is here again, so soon!” The hectic pace of contemporary life! Yet, if anything should slow us down, it is the season of Advent. To realize the tremendous Good News that God is with us, now and in the future, takes time. It’s worth it; for isn’t this what life really is about? All the rest is, including shopping, granted necessary, but so secondary. “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths.” (Mt. 3:2) An Advent Wreath Blessing is included in today’s bulletin. It is a fine tradition to have a Family Advent Wreath to help us mark the “waiting time.”

## ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

At a recent Regional Council Meeting it was decided that during Advent three parishes will offer the Sacrament of



Reconciliation in preparation for Christmas. The five parishes of Region 8 will rotate Penance Services for the different seasons. The following is the schedule for our Regional Advent Penance Services:

Wednesday, December 9—7:00 p.m.  
Holy Family Church, West Newton

Thursday, December 10—7:00 p.m.  
Saint Sebastian Church, Belle Vernon

Thursday, December 17—7:00 p.m.  
Saint John the Baptist Church, Perryopolis

Please avail yourself to the Penance Service that accommodates your schedule.

**ADVENT WREATHS**—Members of our Youth Group have made sturdy, wooden based ADVENT WREATHS which they are offering for sale. The wreaths are on display in the Church vestibule and side exits along with order forms. The cost is \$12 and forms may be turned in at the Parish Center. Wreaths are available for pick up at the Parish Office during regular office hours. Even if you already have an Advent Wreath, adding an additional Wreath to your home will always be a blessing.



## THE ADVENT WREATH

Advent Begins Today  
Sunday, November 29



The Advent Wreath dates back to ancient celebrations of the winter-solstice, that time in the year when the sun reaches its southern-most point in

the heavens and the days are the darkest and most gloomy. Because they longed for the return of the sun's light and life, the ancients stopped all usual activity, sacrificed the use of their wagon wheels and hung them up, festooned them with lights and greens in the celebration halls.

There they awaited the return of their sun-god, thinking of the warmth and life he brought. Celebrations culminated in the “nativity” of the sun -- the turning point of the year.

As Christians, we use the same meaningful custom to anticipate the feast of light and life: the nativity of the Savior. We add one light on the wreath for each Sunday in Advent. We think of the darkness after Adam's sin and watch the growing hope and light as the prophets and the Virgin help us prepare for His saving birth.

### BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

[This is prayed on the First Sunday of Advent or the Saturday evening before to bless the wreath.]

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

ALL: WHO MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH.

Leader: In the short days and long nights of Advent, we realize how we are always waiting for deliverance, always needing salvation by our God. Around this wreath, we shall remember God's promise.

Read from the Old Testament of the Bible: ISAIAH, Chapter 9, verses 1 and 2

Leader: Let us now pray for God's blessing upon us and upon this wreath:

Lord our God, we praise you for your son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon this wreath.

May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he quickly come and not delay.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: AMEN.

Then the first candle is lighted.

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD.

### PRAYER FOR EACH EVENING OF ADVENT

The advent candles are lighted (one the first week, two the second week, etc.) as the leader prays:

Leader: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation, in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you in this food and in our sharing.

Blessed are you as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

ALL: FOR THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY ARE YOURS,  
NOW AND FOR EVER. AMEN.

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus!

ALL: COME QUICKLY!

SAINT SEBASTIAN CHURCH



# December 2009

SAINT SEBASTIAN CHURCH, BELLE VERNON



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
<p>November 09</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						1	2	3	4	5								
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7																																																	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14																																																	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21																																																	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28																																																	
29	30																																																						
		<p>9:30 AM School Mass 6:30 PM Choir 7:00 PM RCIA</p>	<p>9:30 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM First Penance</p>	<p>11:30 AM Sacrament of Penance</p>																																																			
				<p>St. Francis Xavier</p>																																																			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																																	
<p>11:00 AM RelEd Pre-K 6:00 PM Ministerium Choir 6:00 PM Y.E.S. Meeting</p> <p>Donuts &amp; Coffee Following 9:00 AM Mass</p>	<p>6:15 PM RelEd Grades 1-5 6:30 PM Vigil Mass for Immaculate Conception 8:00 PM Valley of Hope</p>	<p>Holiday Masses: 9:30 AM and 5:30 PM</p>	<p>6:30 PM Choir 7:00 PM Advent Penance Service at Holy Family, West Newton 7:00 PM RCIA</p>	<p>7:00 PM Advent Penance Service at St. Sebastian</p>		<p>11:30 AM Sacrament of Penance</p>																																																	
<p>Advent 2</p>	<p>St. Ambrose</p>	<p>Immaculate Conception</p>				<p>Our Lady Guadalupe</p>																																																	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																																																	
<p>11:00 AM LWC 11:00 AM RelEd Pre-K 6:00 PM Junior Youth 6:30 PM BV Ministerium Lessons and Carols</p>	<p>6:15 PM RelEd Grades 1-5 8:00 PM Valley of Hope</p>		<p>9:30 AM School Mass 6:30 PM Choir 7:00 PM RCIA</p>	<p>7:00 PM Advent Penance Service at St. John, Perryopolis</p>		<p>No Confessions Here Today</p>																																																	
<p>Advent 3 - Gaudete</p>	<p>St. John of the Cross</p>																																																						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																																																	
<p>11:00 AM RelEd Pre-K</p>	<p>6:15 PM RelEd Grades 1-5 8:00 PM Valley of Hope</p>		<p>6:30 PM Choir Parish Offices and School Close at Noon</p>	<p>CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASSES: 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM</p>	<p>CHRISTMAS MASSES: 12:00 Midnight 9:30 AM</p>	<p>No Confessions Here Today</p>																																																	
<p>Advent 4</p>						<p>St. Stephen</p>																																																	
27	28	29	30	31																																																			
<p>11:00 AM LWC</p>				<p>Vigil Masses for Solemnity of Mary: 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM</p>																																																			
<p>Holy Family</p>	<p>Holy Innocents</p>																																																						
					<p>January 10</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1 2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1 2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																	
						1 2																																																	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9																																																	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16																																																	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23																																																	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30																																																	
31																																																							

**MARCH FOR LIFE: Fight for the Unborn**

Youth in Grades 7—12 are invited to join the March for Life in Washington, D.C. A bus will be leaving St. Sebastian parking lot on Thursday, January 21, (time to be announced). The March takes place Friday, January 22. For more information or to obtain a reservation form call the Faith Formation Office 724-930-8504. Only one bus will be contracted with 40 seats available. These will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

**CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE BY...**

The YOUTH GROUP will sponsor the food drive this weekend, November 28/29. Please bring food items, cleaning products and/or paper products to the church entrances, or you may bring them to the Parish Office during regular office hours. If you or someone you know in our parish or community needs help of any kind, please contact the Parish Office. All calls are kept confidential.



**LITTLE BLUE BOOK An Advent Booklet** This booklet can be used for reflection and prayer for each day of Advent. We are asking \$1.00 donation for each booklet. Please place your donation in the basket provided or in the drop box in the Parish Center breezeway.

**ANGEL TREE CHRISTMAS PROJECT**

Angel tags listing the ages of the persons and their needs are on the Tree in the vestibule of the Church. You are asked to take an Angel Tag and buy the requested gift and return it, wrapped with the angel tag on it, to Church no later than **Sunday, December 13**, so that the gifts may be distributed in time for Christmas.



**GRATEFUL THANKS** to all who helped in any with the Senior Parishioner Dinner, the reception following the All Soul's Mass and the luncheon following the Anointing Mass. Your generous service of time and desserts is greatly appreciated. God bless you for your kindness.

**THANK YOU** The Christian Foundation for Children and Aging would like to take this opportunity to thank the good people of Saint Sebastian Parish for allowing us to speak on behalf of CFCA and those in need last weekend. We were blessed with your generosity and warm hospitality. We know that you will be blessed in your care for the poor. Together we offer hope and restore dignity. Together we build a community of compassion. Again, thank you for your kindness. If you did not commit to sponsoring an innocent one after one of the Masses and wish to do so now, please use last week's bulletin insert (now in the pamphlet racks) or visit [www.cfcausa.org](http://www.cfcausa.org).

Rev. G. William Fischer, OSFS

**FIRST RECONCILIATION**

On Thursday, December 3, our 2nd Grade students will make their First Reconciliation (Confession). **This Sacrament will be celebrated here at Saint Sebastian Church at 6:30 p.m.**

You are asked to arrive no later than 6:15 p.m. All 2nd grade students from Epiphany and Saint Sebastian Parishes, whether in public or parochial school, are to make their First Reconciliation on this day. Our Pastor, Father Lawrence Manchas and Father David Nazimek, Pastor of Epiphany of Our Lord Parish in Monessen, will be available to hear the confession of the children. **There will be NO adult confessions held this evening.**

If your child was not baptized at Epiphany, Holy Spirit, or St. Sebastian's, please send a copy of their baptismal certificate to the Faith Formation Office as soon as possible. Proof of Christian Baptism is required before First Reconciliation for 2nd grade students.

**AT HOME WITH THE WORD:***Understanding the Sunday Readings*

Each year on the First Sunday of Advent we move to a new cycle of Readings at Mass. Today, Sunday, November 29, 2009, we begin Cycle C. **AT HOME WITH THE WORD** is a Book that invites you to be comfortable with and to understand God's Word, to prepare yourself for Sunday Mass during the week. The books begin Sunday, November 29, 2009 through the Solemnity of Christ the King, November 21, 2010. The books, along with envelopes for payment, are available at the entrances of the Church. The cost is \$7.00 per book. Place the envelope with payment for the book in the collection basket.

**SAINT SEBASTIAN REGIONAL SCHOOL LIGHT UP NIGHT**

On Friday, December 4, at 6:30 p.m. you are invited to attend the school's First Annual Light Up Night when the lights on the Tree of Love will be lit. Come to the Broad Avenue entrance of the School and listen to Christmas Carols sung by our school students and enjoy some hot chocolate. A special visit is expected from Jolly ol' Saint Nicholas. Please join us as we kick off the Christmas holiday season.

