

SCHEDULE OF MASSES AND SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

DECEMBER 6—SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:30 pm **Sat.** For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish
 9:00 am (Anniv) Susan Carson—Parents
 11:00 am (Birth) Jennie Ciferno—Family
Sacrament of Baptism

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7—ST. AMBROSE

6:30 pm *Vigil:* (Anniv) Rose Bitonti—Chuck & Loretta Kraft

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8—SOLEMNITY OF THE

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

9:30 am *School Mass* For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

5:30 pm Agnes Tiech—Andrew & Jeannette Bury

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9—ST. JUAN DIEGO

8:00 am John P. Biggins—Saundra
Advent Penance Service—7:00 p.m.
Holy Family Church—West Newton

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

8:00 am Myrle & Ruth Keller—Son, Lou & Family
Advent Penance Service—7:00 p.m.
Saint Sebastian Church—Belle Vernon

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11—POPE ST. DAMASUS I

8:00 am (Birth) Anna Gadus—Lily & Gary Rozik, Jr.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12—OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

11:30 am Sacrament of Penance

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT—GAUDETE SUNDAY

4:30 pm (Anniv) Albert Neale, Jr.—Mom & Ron

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

9:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish
 11:00 am (Birth) Anna Metrosky—M/M Joseph Pastorkovich
 Liturgy of the Word for Children
 6:30 pm *Lessons and Carols*

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

Weekdays, Dec. 9,10,11 8:00 am L. Perozzi
 Saturday, Dec. 12 4:30 pm G. & A. Iacoboni
 (MC) T. McCullough
 Sunday, Dec. 13 9:00 am J. Rabe—M. Bury
 (MC) E. Russell
 11:00 am S. & C. Necciai
 (MC) D. Kossol

LECTORS COORDINATOR MINISTERS

Saturday, Dec. 12
 4:30 M. Patterson S. Rygiel K. Rygiel—J. Wiggins

Sunday, Dec. 13
 9:00 K. Keene D. Seman D. Russell—J. Russell

11:00 J. Frederick G. Klamerus D. Stasko—C. Zoppetti

Second Collection this Weekend is the annual collection for **CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** for the church. **Next weekend** is the monthly **UTILITIES** and **MAINTENANCE** collection.

SUNDAY COUNTERS

Dec. 6—J. Ciccarelli, R. Melnick, R. Ritson, A. & M.A. Cialone
 Dec. 13—M. & K. Ramsier, S. & S. Zolock, F. Fundy



SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS Please remember in your prayers those who died last week: GEAN-CLAUDE KRUCHTEN, brother of Bernadette Dayner, our parishioner and VICTOR LUDWICK, brother of Agnes Krolik and Chester Ludwick, our parishioners. We extend our sympathy to their families. May they rest in peace.

PARISH ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Monday - Rel. Ed. Class, Gr. 1-5, School Bldg., 6:15 pm
 - Rel. Ed. Students, Gr. 1—5, Church, 6:30 pm
 - Valley of Hope, Hall, 8:00 pm
 Wednesday - Choir, Church, 6:30 pm
 - RCIA, Parish Center, 7:00 pm
 Sunday - Lessons & Carols, Church, 6:30 pm

Stewardship of Treasure

	Sunday Stewardship	Needed for Budget	Over/Under + / -
Nov. 28/29	\$9,382.85	\$9,800.00	-\$417.15
Fiscal Year to Date	\$192,455.50	\$215,600.00	-\$23,144.50

Collection for the Catholic Accent—\$948.35
Thanksgiving Collection—\$1,867.00

Today's Challenge, Tomorrows Hope
 Goal: \$720,000.00

	This Week	To Date
No. Families	19	139
Pledged	\$ 19,705.00	\$458,845.00
Paid	\$ 1,065.00	\$ 40,850.00

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

Monday, Dec. 7 6:30 pm J. & D. Columbus
 (MC) Volunteer Needed
 Tuesday, Dec. 8 9:30 am *School Mass*
 (MC) *School Student*
 5:30 pm J. & T. Beeler
 (MC) Garrett McLaughlin

LECTORS COORDINATOR MINISTERS

Monday, Dec. 7
 6:30 J. Barnot S. Zolock S. Zolock—D. Koury

Tuesday, Dec. 8
 9:30 D. Free M. Free J. Moody—C. Simboli

5:30 S. Raymond S. Wawro M. Nogy—E. Studnicki

COFFEE, DOUGHNUTS & CONVERSATION

Today, Sunday, December 6,
 in our Parish Hall
 following the 9:00 a.m. Mass.
 All are welcome to join us!

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.



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.



OPLATKI, OPLATEK, CHRISTMAS WAFERS This is a tradition of Eastern European Christians on Christmas Eve. Wafers are available for purchase this weekend in the vestibule of the Church for \$2.00 per pack of 4 wafers. An explanation of the use of the wafers is included on each envelope. Please place your donation in the basket provided or in the drop box in the Parish Center breezeway.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY will be celebrated this Tuesday, December 8, a holyday of obligation. The Immaculate Conception is a celebration of what happens in human nature when God's Spirit is totally accepted: "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let what you have said be done to me." (Lk. 1:8). The Doctrine that

Mary was always without sin, never separated in any fashion from her Father, arises from a long tradition that sees God entering human life, in proportion to our human response, but a response which is only possible through His grace. To be the human channel for the entrance of Almighty God into history, to be the Mother of God, can only mean a sinless life. As we look at Mary, this unique member of our human race, we draw a dramatic conclusion: the more we are willing to accept Christ into our lives, the more we are bearers of God to a world that desperately needs what He has to offer.

Our Masses for the Solemnity: **MONDAY EVENING** at 6:30 P.M. (Religious Education Students in attendance) and on **TUESDAY** at the 9:30 A.M. School Mass and at 5:30 P.M.

ADVENT WREATHS

If you haven't ordered one already, the 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.



PRE-K/K RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There will be no PreK/Kindergarten Religious Education classes on Sunday, December 27. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 3, 2010.

SAINT SEBASTIAN CHURCH



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.

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. Last Sunday, November 29, 2009, we began 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 began on 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.



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, 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, Laverne Stark, 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.

**SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, January 31, 2010—
Chicken and Biscuit Dinner! SAVE THE DATE!**

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.

PREPARING THE WAY FOR CHRIST The Office for Clergy Vocations of the Diocese of Greensburg will be offering an Advent vocation awareness program entitled "Preparing the Way for Christ", an Advent evening of discernment on Thursday, December 10 from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Bishop William G. Connare Center in Greensburg. The evening is open to any single Catholic male between the age of 14 and 40. The evening will include prayer, presentations, open discussions and a question-and-answer session. It will begin with dinner and conclude with evening prayer. There is no charge for this event. Reservations may be made through Monday, December 7 by contacting Father Larry J. Kulick at the Office for Clergy Vocation: 724-837-0901, ext. 332 or at lkulick@dioceseofgreensburg.org.

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.

HANDICAPPED PARKING

The area directly behind the Parish Center has five parking spaces for the handicapped. This is a very limited number and we are running short of spaces. **The turn around area is not a parking space.**

If you, the driver, are bringing a handicapped person to Mass, and are not handicapped yourself, please consider letting your handicapped passenger get out of the vehicle in the area behind the Parish Center, and then park your car in one of our other three parking lots.

We understand this is not possible if your passenger needs your assistance getting into the Church. Thank you for being patient and helping to keep our handicapped parking available for the handicapped.

There is also a handicap parking area between the church and school, right off Broad Avenue

Next Sunday
GAUDETE SUNDAY

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 13

Service of
Lessons and Carols

On Sunday, December 13, at 6:30 p.m.,
the Belle Vernon Ministerium Choir
will celebrate the

Service of Lessons and Carols
here at our church.

The Service, which began in 1918,
is a Service of nine Lessons (readings)
from Scripture, followed by the singing of Christmas
Carols after each Lesson.

It is a Service filled with joy!

Both the Lessons and the Carols
reflect the love, peace, and
happiness of the Christmas season!

The Ministerium Choir is composed of singers
from a multitude of churches,
coming together

to celebrate the Nativity of Jesus Christ. Traditional
hymns,

as well as anthems designed solely for choir,
will be sung.

Everyone is invited
and encouraged to attend this festive service.

GRATEFUL THANKS FROM THE CHOIR

Sally

who participated in the Choir Fundraiser in October. They
have already purchased and installed two
new microphones (one for the cantor and
one for the choir), and also a monitor in the
choir loft. May God bless you all for your
generous help.



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.



OUR CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE If you have
attended the Christmas Eve Vigil
Mass each year and found it so
crowded you could not find a
place to sit, you'll be happy to
know we are continuing to keep
an additional Mass on Christmas

Eve. The Christmas Mass Schedule is as follows:

Thursday, December 24—Christmas Vigil:

4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Friday, December 25, Christmas Day:

Midnight Mass, 12:00 a.m.

(preceded by choir selections at 11:30 p.m.)
and 9:30 a.m.

PARISH CALENDARS FOR 2010 Our church
calendars are provided by the **LEONARD J.
PARZYNSKI FUNERAL HOME, Belle Vernon.**
A gracious **thank you** to Len, Joyce, Mike and
Sherri for their generosity in providing these
calendars each year for the members of our
Parish. Members of the Parzynski family and
funeral home staff will distribute the 2010
calendars after all Masses the weekend of
December 19/20.

**DECORATING THE CHURCH
& GROUNDS FOR CHRISTMAS**

We will be decorating the Church on Sunday,
December 20, following the morning Masses.
Anyone who is available to help is most welcome.
The more volunteers we have the sooner we will
have the decorating accomplished. Volunteers
are needed to help put up the outside
decorations for the church as well. If you can
help, please call the Parish Office to volunteer.

GRATEFUL THANKS to DIANNA VARGO and
her family for preparing the Fellowship
Thanksgiving Dinner this year and to all those who
volunteered in any way to set up, serve, make
desserts and clean up. Special thanks to the local
branch of the "National Wild Turkey Federation for
donating turkeys for this annual Thanksgiving
Dinner.