

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

DECEMBER 13—THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GAUDETE SUNDAY

- 4:30 pm **Sat.** (Anniv) Albert Neale, Jr.—Mom & Ron
- 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—Belle Vernon Ministerium*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14—ST. JOHN OF THE CORSS

- 8:00 am Andrew Yencsik & Michael Hepple—Helen Yencsik & Family
- After Mass: Miraculous Medal Novena & Rosary

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

No Morning Mass Today

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

- 9:30 am *School Mass* (Anniv) Blanche Sabo—Bernadette Zunic & Annette Trenk

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

- 8:00 am (Anniv) George Fabian, Jr.—M/M Jim Lubecki
- Advent Penance Service—7:00 p.m.*
- St. John the Baptist—Perryopolis*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

- 8:00 am George & Margaret Fabian—Family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

No Confessions Here Today

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 4:30 pm (Birth) Bill Moody—Frank Galilei
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20**
- 9:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish
- 11:00 am (Anniv) Eleanor Mancuso—Joanne Latkanich

LITURGICAL MINISTERS—SERVERS & MASTER OF CEREMONIES

- Weekdays, Dec. 14,15,17,18 8:00 am J. & S. Pokol
- Wednesday, Dec. 16 9:30 am *School Mass*
- Saturday, Dec. 19 4:30 pm G. & A. Iacoboni
(MC) T. McCullough
- Sunday, Dec. 20 9:00 am J. Rabe—M. Bury
(MC) E. Russell
- 11:00 am S. & C. Necciai
(MC) D. Kossol

LECTORS COORDINATOR MINISTERS

- Saturday, Dec. 19**
- 4:30 M. Patterson S. Rygiel J. Wiggins—K. Rygiel
- Sunday, Dec. 20**
- 9:00 K. Keene D. Seman D. Russell—J. Russell
- 11:00 J. Frederick G. Klamerus D. Stasko—C. Zoppetti

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE CHRISTMAS MASSES:

- Christmas Eve: 4:00 pm—Lector Needed & Altar Servers**
- 6:00 pm—Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion & Altar Servers**
- Christmas Day: 9:30 am—Master of Ceremonies**

Second Collection this Weekend is the monthly UTILITIES & MAINTENANCE collection.

SUNDAY COUNTERS

- Dec. 13—M. & K. Ramsier, S. & S. Zolock, F. Fundy
- Dec. 20—B. Bury, R. Nandor, D. & G. Sepic

ALTAR FLOWERS this weekend are given to the glory of God and in memory of MORSE & ELSIE FALIBOTA by their family.

SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS Please remember in your prayers those who died last week: MURPHY PERROTTO, father of Marianne Best, our parishioner. We extend our sympathy to his family. May he rest in peace.

PARISH ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

- Sunday - Junior Youth Group, Parish Center, 6:00 pm
- Monday - Rel. Ed. Class, Gr. 1-5, School Bldg., 6:15 pm
- Valley of Hope, Church/Hall, 7:30 pm
- Wednesday - Choir, Church, 6:30 pm
- RCIA, Parish Center, 7:00 pm

BAPTIZED IN CHRIST last Sunday, TATIANA JO MATHIANAS-HERRIOT, daughter of Sarah Mathianas. We welcome Tatiana Jo into the Church and into our parish family. God bless her and her family.

Stewardship of Treasure

	Sunday Stewardship	Needed for Budget	Over/Under + / -
Dec. 5/6	\$10,390.35	\$9,800.00	+\$590.35
Fiscal Year to Date	\$202,845.85	\$225,400.00	-\$22,554.15
Christmas Flowers—\$1,750.00			
Today's Challenge, Tomorrows Hope			
Goal: \$720,000.00			
	This Week	To Date	
No. Families	15	154	
Pledged	\$ 7,465.00	\$466,310.00	
Paid	\$ 1,345.00	\$ 42,195.00	

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, 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!

LESSONS AND CAROLS
Presented this evening
GAUDETE SUNDAY
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 13

The Belle Vernon Area Ministerium will lead the community in a celebration of *Lessons and Carols* in our church at 6:30 pm. The choir will consist of "voices" from various churches within the Ministerium. Everyone in the community is welcome and invited to attend.

December 20, Bishop Brandt will celebrate the 40th anniversary of his priestly ordination with a special Mass of Thanksgiving. The Mass will take place at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg at 11:30 a.m. An hors d'oeuvre reception will immediately follow in the Cathedral Hall. The public is cordially invited to attend this celebration.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2011

The deadline for registering for World Youth Day 2011 is fast approaching: **January 4th, 2010.**

The total cost of the pilgrimage has been reduced by our travel agent! Join Pope Benedict XVI and Millions of Catholics from around the world at **World Youth Day 2011 in MADRID, SPAIN August 13th, 2011 to August 23rd, 2011. Be a part of this life changing event!** Package includes roundtrip airfare from Pittsburgh International Airport to Madrid, Spain, all airport taxes and fees, a day trip to Toledo, Spain prior to WYD events, all World Youth Day Programs, a day trip to Avila, Spain following WYD events, double occupancy hotel lodging, and meals each day during the World Youth Day Programs (dinner not included on 2 day tour of cities)

Total Cost of WYD 2011 Package: \$3600.00
 (previously at \$3950.00)

\$300.00 deposit due by January 4, 2010 to reserve your spot at this price

You must be 18 years of age or older to travel to Madrid, Spain for World Youth Day 2011. Partial scholarships may be made available. Payments will be spread throughout the year. Contact the Diocesan Youth and Young Adult Ministry Office for more information at (724)837-0901 or for the registration form visit:

www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/youthministry

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 final scheduled Regional Advent Penances Service.

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



The Sacrament of Penance (confession) will not be offered on Saturday, December 19 nor on Saturday, December 26 here at Saint Sebastian Church.

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 by Tuesday, **December 15**, (if you just picked up your tag today) 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.

SAINT SEBASTIAN CHURCH

St. Sebastian Regional School Fundraiser

St. Sebastian Regional School is currently selling tickets for a 2010 Ford Edge AWD-SE (purchased from C. Harper Auto Group). The drawing is Friday, January 29th, 2010. In addition, \$1,000 will be given away on January 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th. All the prizes will play the 4-digit number of the 7:00 pm PA Lottery. The first number drawn is official. Not valid for bonus drawing. Tickets are \$25.00 each. Each ticket has two numbers. If you would like to purchase a ticket, please contact Amy Zakrzwski at 724-929-5143 or by email: amyscrip@comcast.net

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS TO THE HOMEBOUND Please pick up gifts in the priest's sacristy for your homebound after Masses this weekend.

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. This will accommodate two cars.

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.

PASTOR: Reverend Lawrence L. Manchas

Business Manager: Mr. Thomas J. Rodriguez

School Principal: Mr. Steven J. Dorko

Director of Faith Formation: Mr. Scott J. Martin

Liturgical Music Director: Mr. Eugene Lancas

Ministry of Care: Mrs. Betty Fundy

Parish Secretary: Ms. Michele Cope

School Secretary: Ms. Connie Simboli

Faith Formation/Bulletin Secretary: Darleen Koury

Parish Telephone Numbers:

Parish Center/Offices.....724-929-9300

Parish Fax.....724-930-7611

Faith Formation Office.....724-930-8504

School.....724-929-5143

School Fax.....724-929-3038

Parish Hall.....724-929-9982

Catholic Charities Office.....724-929-4699

E-Mail Address—stsebastian@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Website—<http://www.saintsebastianchurch.org>

School Website—<http://www.ssbv.org>

Sunday Mass Schedule

Saturday—4:30 pm; Sunday—9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Penance—Saturday at 11:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Infant Baptism

On the 1st and 3rd Sundays during the 11:00 a.m. Mass, and Please call the Faith Formation Office to schedule a Baptism. Parents must attend Baptism Preparation 1 month prior to the Baptism.

Sacrament of Marriage

Arrangements are to be made at least one year in advance with the pastor. Couples must participate in Marriage Preparation.

(RCIA) Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Anyone interested in more information on the Catholic Church or in becoming a Catholic, please contact the Faith Formation Office.

Ministry to the Homebound

To arrange for the Sacraments of Eucharist, Reconciliation or Anointing of the Sick, call the Parish Office. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are available to bring the Eucharist to the Homebound on Sundays.

Religious Education/Formation

Please contact Scott Martin, Director of Faith Formation

Catholic Charities

Counseling is available through the Diocesan Catholic Charities Office located in our Parish Center. Call 724-929-4699.

Parish Office Hours

Monday—Friday, 9:00 a.m.— Noon then 12:30-5:00 p.m.

Bulletin Deadline

All articles must be printed or typed and submitted by 9:00 a.m. on Monday.



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. On 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.

PRAY FOR A PRIEST THIS WEEK

- Mon: Father Ronald Simboli, Church of St. Anne
 Tue: Father David Nazimek, Epiphany of Our Lord Church
 Wed: Father Leonard McAlpin, former pastor of suppressed Holy Spirit Parish
 Thu: Father Robert Lubic, St. John the Baptist Church
 Fri: Father Vince Gigliotti, St. Peter Church
 Sat: Father John Sweeney, Holy Family Church
 Sun: Father Lawrence Manchas, St. Sebastian Church

“O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live and act in him, speak in and through him. Think your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Teach, lead and guide him always. Correct, enlighten and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul; take over his entire personality and life. Let him live in you. Amen.”



OUR CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

If you have attended the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass each year and found the 4:00 p.m. Mass 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 this year at 6:00 p.m. 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. Christmas Morning.

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 next weekend, 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.

MISSION STATEMENT We the Parish Family of Saint Sebastian, Belle Vernon, serve people in Westmoreland and Fayette Counties. We are Roman Catholics of various ethnic backgrounds with strong family values demonstrating a variety of skills, trades and professions. The purpose of the parish is to glorify God by assisting the community on the “Journey of a Lifetime” through the Liturgy and Sacraments, teaching and preaching the Word of God, and witnessing to our faith. As a community of faith, we are committed to love of God and neighbor through worshiping together and serving others in caring for their spiritual, emotional and physical needs. Each of us is called to strengthen and reach beyond our parish through being responsible stewards of our time, talent and treasure in the spirit of our patron, Saint Sebastian.