



# St. Sebastian Catholic Church



*A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust*  
**A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg**  
**801 Broad Avenue ~ Belle Vernon, PA 15012**  
**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time—January 29, 2012**

***Parish Staff***

Rev. Msgr. Roger A. Statnick.....Pastor  
rstatnick@dioceseofgreensburg.org  
Mr. Daniel Lisovich..... Business Manager  
dlisovich@dioceseofgreensburg.org  
Mr. Scott J. Martin....Director of Faith Formation  
smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org  
Mr. Eugene Lancas Coordinator of Liturgical Music  
Mrs. Christy Cabaniss, Coordinator, Ministry of Care  
ccabaniss@dioceseofgreensburg.org  
Mrs. Michele Cope .....Parish Secretary  
mcope@dioceseofgreensburg.org  
Mrs. Darleen Koury...Bulletin/Faith Formation Secretary  
dkoury@dioceseofgreensburg.org

***Parish Telephone Numbers:***

Parish Center/Office: ..... 724-929-9300  
Parish Fax: ..... 724-930-7611  
Faith Formation Office: ..... 724-930-8504  
Parish Hall: ..... 724-929-9982

***E-Mail:*** stsebastian@dioceseofgreensburg.org

***Parish Website:*** www.saintsebastianchurch.org

***Weekend Masses:***

Saturday 4:30 p.m.; Sunday 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

***Sacrament of Penance:*** Saturday 11:30 a.m.

***Parish Office Hours:***

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

***Saint Sebastian Regional School***

Mr. Steven J. Dorko.....Principal  
sdorko@dioceseofgreensburg.org  
Mrs. Connie Simboli ..... School Office Manager  
csimboli@dioceseofgreensburg.org  
School Telephone ..... 724-929-5143  
School Fax ..... 724-929-3038  
Website ..... www.sssbv.org

***Ministry to the Homebound:*** To arrange for the Sacraments of the Eucharist, Reconciliation or Anointing of the Sick, call Christy Cabaniss. Extraordinary Ministers are available for Communion to the Homebound on Sundays.

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

***Religious Education/Formation:*** Please contact Mr. Scott Martin, Director of Faith Formation at 724-930-8504.

***(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.

***Sacrament of Marriage:*** Arrangements are to be made at least six months in advance. Couples must participate in Marriage Preparation sessions.

***Sacrament of Baptism for Infants:*** On the first and third Sundays of the month during any Mass. Please contact the Faith Formation Office to schedule Baptism. Parents must attend a Baptism Preparation Session prior to their child’s Baptism.

***Bulletin Deadline:*** 9:00 a.m. on Monday. Please print or type all announcements.

**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 worshipping 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.

**St. Sebastian Church-Weekly Report**  
**January 23, 2012**

Beginning Checking Account Balance 1/17/12:	\$101,506.56
<u>Income:</u>	
Sunday Collection January 21/22	+ 7,408.50
Miscellaneous Receipts	+ 1,300.00
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Weekly expenses	<u>-11,204.18</u>
<b>Closing Checking Account Balance 1/23/12:</b>	<b>\$99,010.88</b>
Less current outstanding obligations:	
Those in Need	-4,540.79
Collections owed Diocese	-4,006.00
Athletic Assoc.	<u>-6,410.00</u>
<b><u>Balance for daily operating expenses</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 84,054.09</u></b>

**Reserve Fund (Catholic Institute Savings):**

2011 DLA Refund	\$715.00
TCTH Capital Campaign Refund Dec 2009 –present	59,574.60
Miscellaneous Savings	<u>11,702.25</u>
<b><u>Total Catholic Institute Savings</u></b>	<b>\$71,991.85</b>

**FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS:** John Ciccarelli, Mark Ramsier, Louis Toth, Carol Shernisky, Robert Bury

**PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS** Cliff Gorski, Lorraine Kapolka, Sandy Wawro, Joan Ciccarelli, Michael DeFrancisco, Albert Pokol, Susanne Schussler, Lawrence Bender, Mary Ann McMillen

**WINTER INDOOR YARD SALE 2012** will take place on Saturday, March 3, from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The cost for one table is \$25.00 and \$30.00 for two tables. Interested VENDORS are asked to call Darleen Koury at 724-930-8504, 724-929-9300 or Marianne Best at 724-929-8539 for additional information.

**“I Spy Five Spies”**

Looking for a great Valentine’s idea? Or just want a night out with friends? Make your reservations for Friday, February 10. It’s a fun filled adult night out at St. Sebastian Parish Hall to benefit the regional school. The cost for dinner and a show will be \$35.00 a couple. Cash bar will also be available. Tickets are limited!

Call the school office at 724.929.5143 or send in your paid reservation to school. Please be sure to include your name, number of tickets and student and grade that tickets should go home with. Visit [www.ssbv.org](http://www.ssbv.org) for more information.

**2011 CONTRIBUTION REPORTS** will be mailed to all parishioners by the end of January. We realize many need them for income tax purposes.

**BINGO FUN**—On Sunday, February 19, the Y.E.S. Group will hold a Bingo in Saint Sebastian Parish Hall starting at 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. DONATIONS are needed for “special prizes.” Items donated could be: gift certificates to restaurants, grocery stores, mall shops, sports items, gift baskets, etc. Call the Faith Formation Office at 724-930-8504 to donate. Thank you and bless you for your kindness.

**EASTERN EUROPE COLLECTION** will be taken up at all Masses next weekend. The reason for this appeal is to reestablish and restore the Church in Central and Eastern European countries after years of oppression and persecution. The money will help to restore religious orders and seminaries, and reinstitute religious education. The Church in Eastern Europe has suffered greatly and the people are counting on us. Let us help them face their enormous challenges by being their source of hope.

## SAVE THE DATE

*Saint Sebastian Parish will hold a parish assembly on Sunday, February 12 in the parish hall from 2-5 PM. The time will be spent discussing specific issues that the pastoral council has identified. Each table of 6 to 8 persons will be assigned one issue. The feedback obtained from this assembly will be used in the pastoral council's and finance council's future deliberations. Come and meet some fellow parishioners and share your ideas.*

### **Diocesan High School Youth Ministry Retreat**

All youth in grades 9 -12 are invited to a Youth Ministry Retreat sponsored by the Diocese of Greensburg. Come and be "Full-Filled" on February 24-26, 2012 at Jumonville Retreat and Conference Center. The retreat will empower teens to make tough decisions about important topics and to ask difficult questions as they journey to know Christ in their lives. The deadline to register is February 8, 2012. Visit [www.full-filled.org](http://www.full-filled.org)

**BOY SCOUT SUNDAY**—On Sunday, February 5, during the 11:00 a.m. Mass, members of our Boy Scout Troop #1543 will be in full uniform as they attend Mass for this annual celebration of Boy Scout Sunday.

**REMINDER:** *Lectors, Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Altar Servers, Liturgical Coordinators*—Your ministry preference forms are due in the Parish Office by January 31, 2012. Thank you.

**ATTENTION** Extraordinary Ministers to the homebound! Please pick your copy of "The Catholic Handbook for Visiting the Sick & Homebound in the altar server sacristy. Questions? Call Christy at 724-929-9300.

**LORD PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THE SICK OF OUR PARISH, especially:** Paula Baker, Sally Biava, Donna Biagini, Muffy Blevins, Anthony Boyle, Adam Canigiani, Jr. Ann Cartwright, Eric Cecchetti, James Coda, Jr., Jenna Christner, Irene Colborn, Mary Delbarre, Ann Dorcan, Darlene Engel, Joan Eversburg, Rev. William Feeney, Thomas W. Galley, Jr., Millie Gelotti, Mary Gira, Art Granlund, Rudy Halgas, Jane Hazy, Betty Jean Henderson, Janice Hill, Ann Husovitz, Philomena Iacovangelo, Ann Krossoff, Amanda Kumher, Mariah Kumher, Betty Lazzari, Stanley Lubinski, MaryAnn Manchas-Bolk, Kathleen McCullough, Mary B. Nagy, Chris Naylor, Joseph Naylor, Jo O'Hara, Don O'Toole, Melanie Pearce, Theresa Peckyno, Stella Povlish, Stanley Ravish, Tina Rihtarcik, George Rue, Mary Ann Rocco, Mathew Russell, Barbara Sedlak, Steve Semancik, Joseph Smith, Frank Stancato, Edward Stasko, Ralph Swantek, Clara Tonarelli. Lord, 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.

## **Mass Schedule for the Week**

**JANUARY 29, 2012—Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

4:30 pm **Sat.** For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish  
 9:00 am (Anniv) James Bitonti—Wife, Donna & Children  
 11:00 am (Birth) Kenneth Mathianas—Bob & Denise Marshall

**MONDAY, JANUARY 30**

8:00 am (Birth) Joseph Mendicino—M/M Joe Barger

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 31**

8:00 am (Birth) Scott Sibula—Mom

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1**

\* 9:30 am *School Mass:* (Anniv) Emily Skibo—Marsha & Shelly

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2**

*No Mass Today*

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3**

*No Mass Today*

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4**

3:30 am *Sacrament of Penance*

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

4:30 pm Helen Guzanick—Friends

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5**

9:00 am Edgar Delbarre & M/M August Korber—Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren

11:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

*\*When there is a school delay/cancellation, the school Mass will be cancelled and the intention for that Mass will be rescheduled.*

### **LITURGICAL MINISTERS—SERVERS**

Saturday, Feb. 4 4:30 pm M. Lowe, M. Fabean

Sunday, Feb. 5 9:00 am D. Columbus, S.A. Buza

11:00 am J. & S. Pokol

**LECTORS** **LIT. COORDINATOR** **MINISTERS**

**Saturday, Feb. 4**

4:30 C. Gorski T. McCullough M. Nogy, S. & K. Rygiel  
 J. Wiggins, J. Moody, C. Farrier, J. Stringhill

**Sunday, Feb. 5**

9:00 D. Free J. Columbus M. Free, R. Couser, D. Seman  
**Volunteer,** D. Russell, G. McLaughlin, J. Russell

11:00 K. McLaughlin M. Couser M. Druciak, G. Rush, B. Antal  
 C. Zoppetti, T. Betters, G. Klamerus, D. Stasko

**SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS** Please remember in your prayers those who died recently: RENATO MONTICELLI and DOROTHY YOWONSKE. We extend our sympathy to their families. May they rest in peace.

*Altar Flowers this weekend have been donated in memory of the Paul and Samuel Bitonti by Georgia Bitonti.*

## GREENSBURG CENTRAL CATHOLIC ENROLLMENT

For more information go to [www.gcchs.org](http://www.gcchs.org)

### Visit Days for Incoming Students

**Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> Graders** –February 9, 2012 from 9:00am-1:45pm

**Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> Graders** –February 15, 2012 from 9:00am-11:30am

**Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> Graders** –February 17, 2012 from 9:00am-11:30am

**Freshmen Placement Test**—Only incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders are required to take a placement test on Saturday, February 18, 2012 from 8:00am-11:30am

**Junior High Parent Information Night**  
Thurs., February 23, 2012 at 7:00pm in the Aux. Gym

**Incoming Junior High Student Game Night**  
Friday, March 16, 2012 from 7:00pm-8:30pm  
Please RSVP to all events to Meghan Kerr at [mkerr@gcchs.org](mailto:mkerr@gcchs.org) or 724-834-0310 ext. 214

**A BUS TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY**— The GCC Cheerleaders are sponsoring a day-trip to New York City on Friday, April 20. The cost is \$80 per person due by March 1. Persons under 21 must be accompanied by their parent. Proceeds benefit the GCC Cheerleaders. For information /reservation call Amy Guzzy at 724-864-5687.

## FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF PARISHIONERS AND GUESTS:

If you are new to our Parish you may not know the following:

1. During Mass if you are unable to walk up for Holy Communion, an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion will circumvent the church with the Holy Eucharist. Please sit at the end of the pew along a side aisle. When the Minister approaches, please stand or raise your hand and the Minister will stop to give you Holy Communion.
2. The last pew on the Mary Shrine side of the church is reserved for the handicapped. The kneeler has been removed to make it easier for people to move in and out of the pew.
3. There are two restrooms in the back of the church. One is located in the main vestibule and the other is near the back exit on the Mary Shrine side of the church.

**REVEILLE, REVEILLE, REVEILLE**—We will be updating the Parish Honor Board! If you are or know a parishioner that is currently serving in our U.S. Military, please submit a current photo (preferably in uniform) with the name, rank, and duty station of that individual. To continue a UNIFORM display, please fill out the form below.

### HONOR BOARD

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

RANK \_\_\_\_\_

DUTY STATION \_\_\_\_\_

Parishioner: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

How is this military person associated with you and Saint Sebastian

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**CENTRAL BLOOD BANK** will hold a Blood Drive in our Parish Hall today Sunday, January 29, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

**LIFE LINE SCREENING** will be held in our Parish Hall on Friday, March 2, 2012. To schedule an appointment call 1-800-324-1851 or register online by accessing:

[www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners).

## SIGHT & SOUND THEATRE—JONAH!



The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association Branch #88 is planning a bus trip to the Sight & Sound Theater in Lancaster to see the presentation of "Jonah". The trip will take place on May 9, 2012. Members of the branch will be charged \$48.00 and guests will be charged \$115.00. The 45 seats on the bus are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. For further information, call Dorothy at 724-684-8243.

## BAXTER'S WINTER INTERLUDE



I notice that Baxter, like many of us, gets a bit lethargic in the winter. He stares out the window, but without any high alert signals set off. There are no stimuli for the hunting instinct, no birds, rabbits, squirrels, other cats to get the juices running for a fantasy hunt. On grey days, Baxter settles into one of his many nap spots and stays put for long stretches. As he has gotten older, he now hugs the heat registers on especially cold days, snuggling the warm air so tightly that I sometimes worry about his catching himself on fire. Winter is a season when he slows down, draws in and hopes for the best. He sometimes cries at the garage door to be let out, but as soon as I open the door and he feels the cold air, he turns and runs. A garage adventure can wait until spring.

Winter affects us in similar ways. We stay indoors much more. We do what we need to do to keep life going—work, grocery shopping, transporting the kids, shoveling snow—but we often pull back, settle in and snuggle in the cocoons we create to feel secure. We want to be safe and warm when the climate gets cold and threatening, and we do little to break out of this survival mode. We look for how we can exercise the least effort to get by and conserve our energy. There is often little to excite us in this season. It's a waiting game until spring.

Shakespeare wrote about the winter of our discontent when intrigue and sinister human motives darken every encounter between persons. Much of the human drama hinges on this mood. Wintry moments even find a place in the Gospel story. Recall the controversies with the religious officials, the plot to betray Jesus involving one of His own disciples, and the hopelessness of Calvary and its aftermath. Whatever the climate was at those times, the human temperature was cold and dark towards the Son of God. It was a spiritual winter for many, and they were freezing out the love of God incarnate in their midst.

Does this kind of winter get inside of us as well? Do we just refuse to look for a bright side to life rooted in the God who loves us? Do we pull into ourselves for security and warmth and refuse to confront the cold in ourselves and others? If we do, then we cannot grow spiritually. In winter, life goes dormant. It stops expanding, reproducing and bearing fruit. It sleeps, waiting for a better time, and if that time does not come, it may remain sterile for the season or even die. The fruitful soul is a warm one, no matter what the temperature is around it. It takes in the love of God however it appears from whomever it is offered. It refuses to accept the cold environment of human sinfulness but instead creates a climate of forgiveness, acceptance and hospitality for anyone who will receive it. This is the way Jesus transformed the winter of Calvary into the springtime of Easter, and He has empowered us to do the same.

So no excuses for the winter doldrums. Reach out and be about the task of letting the love of God work in and through you. It may not melt snow, but it can melt hard hearts, closed minds and selfish spirits, our own and others.

Monsignor Statnick