



St. Sebastian Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania
Charitable
Trust

A Parish of the
Diocese of
Greensburg



Parish Staff

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Parish Telephone Numbers:

Parish Center/Office: 724-929-9300
Parish Fax: 724-930-7611
Faith Formation Office 724-929-9300

Parish Website: www.saintsebastianchurch.org

Weekend Masses:

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

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday and Friday 8:00 a.m.
Holy Days, Holidays, call the Parish Office

Sacrament of Penance:

Saturday 3:00—4:00 p.m.

Parish Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saint Sebastian Regional School

Dr. Nina Zetty Principal
nzetty@dioceseofgreensburg.org
Mrs. Tiffany Miller School Business Manager
tnmiller@sssbv.org
School Telephone 724-929-5143
School Fax 724-929-3038
Website www.sssbv.org

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

Ministry to the Homebound: For the Sacraments of the Eucharist, Reconciliation or Anointing of the Sick, call the Faith Formation Office.. Extraordinary Ministers are available for Communion to the Homebound on Sundays.

Catholic Charities: Counseling is available through the Diocesan Catholic Charities Office. Call 724-929-4699.

Religious Education/Formation: Please call the Faith Formation Office at 724-929-9300.

(RCIA) Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: Anyone interested in becoming a Catholic, please call 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: Please call the Faith Formation Office to schedule Baptism and to register for the Baptism Preparation session held at 6:30 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Parents must attend prior to their child's Baptism.

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, St. Sebastian.

Diocesan Lenten Appeal

As of April 8, we have collected \$32,662 which represents 38% of our Parish goal. By comparison, last year at this point in the drive, we had accumulated \$30,760 or 34% of our Parish goal.

Gluten Free Hosts Available

If you cannot consume the wheat hosts, there are gluten free hosts available for those who need them. Please do not be embarrassed to stop by the priest's sacristy before Mass and request this special consideration so that you may receive the Eucharist. Father Mike asks that you stop in the sacristy at least 10—15 minutes before Mass begins.

Heifer Project

Although we didn't quite fill the ARK this year, we certainly did make a noble effort and please know that we have made quite a difference in many families lives. For the first year of taking on this Stewardship effort, I think that we did very well. If you have not contributed to the ARK and wish to do so, you still can by simply dropping your donation into the collection basket.

**Join us to pray
the Rosary
every Sunday
at 8:30 a.m.**



The Paschal Candle



This year's Paschal Candle is in loving memory of Afton Smereczniak by his wife, Betty.

Paschal Candle & Altar Candle Ring Flowers

The following weekend dates are still available for both the Paschal Candle & two Candle Rings flowers:

May 4 & 5; May 25 & 26
June 1 & 2; June 8 & 9

If you would like to have flowers in memory of a deceased loved one or for a special intention, please contact the Parish Office. Flowers for the Paschal Candle are \$100, and flowers for the Altar Candle Rings are \$100 for the pair.

Flowers This Week

Paschal Candle Flowers are in memory of Jim & Irene Mendicino by Rick & Bev.

The Candle Ring Flowers are in memory of Ben & Genevieve Lubecki by Rick & Bev.

Second Collection this weekend is the annual Easter collection.

Travel Group

2019 Travel Group Trips

- ★ In Jennerstown:
Mid Life 2—Aug. 8
Million Dollar Quartet—Oct. 10
 - ★ Sweet Treats & Fancy Eats in York—July 25 & 26 *(Please note: dates have been changed).*
 - ★ Ark Adventure in Kentucky—Oct. 16-17.
- For information call 724-938-0865.

Stewardship of Treasure—April 7, 2019

Regular Offertory:	\$ 7,237.50	(328 envelopes out of 1298 families)
Youth:	\$ 23.00	
Loose:	\$ 742.00	
Total Offertory:	\$ 8,002.50	
Amount budgeted for weekly regular offertory	\$7,986.31	
Over/(under) budget:	\$ (748.81)	
Average adult donation this weekend	\$10.00 per envelope	
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$ 84.00	
Votive Candles:	\$ 340.00	
Capital Project/Roof Fund:	\$ 754.00	
Catholic Accent:	\$ 294.00	
Good Friday:	\$ 35.00	
Lenten Offering:	\$ 1,061.00	
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$ 232.00	
Easter:	\$ 187.00	
Holy Thursday:	\$ 37.00	
Ascension:	\$ 5.00	
Total April 6/7 collection:	\$ 11,031.50	

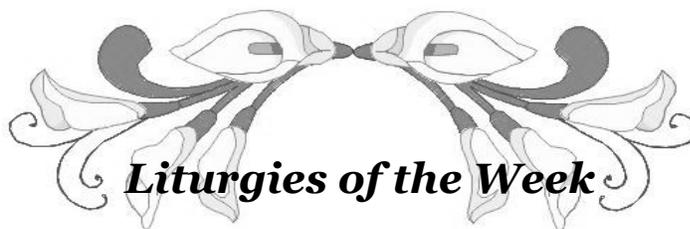
Our Return To Easter

*Even though we are baptized,
what we constantly lose and betray is
precisely that which we received
at baptism.*

*Therefore Easter is our return
every year to our own baptism,
whereas Lent is our preparation for
that return*

*the slow and sustained effort to perform,
at the end, our own "passage or pascha"
into the new life in Christ.*

*Each year Lent and Easter are,
once again, the rediscovery
and the recovery by us of what we were made
through our own baptismal
death and resurrection.*



Liturgies of the Week

April 20—Easter Vigil

9:00 pm Intention of the Celebrant

April 21—Resurrection of the Lord

9:00 am Intention of the Celebrant

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

Easter Monday, April 22

No Mass Today

Easter Tuesday, April 23

8:00 am Andy Bury—Wife, Jeannette

Easter Wednesday, April 24

No Mass Today

Easter Thursday, April 25

No Mass Today

Easter Friday, April 26

8:00 am Donald & Brian Anderson—Patrick
Anderson

Saturday, April 27

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, April 27—Vigil

4:30 pm A Dear Friend, Alberta Fields—Love, Marge
Marek

Sacrament of First Eucharist

April 28—Second Sunday of Easter

9:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

Sacrament of First Eucharist

11:00 am Jim Lori—Deanne Nogy

Sacrament of First Eucharist

Liturgical Ministers—Servers

Saturday, Apr. 27 4:30 pm A. & A. Peden

Sunday, Apr. 28 9:00 am Volunteers Needed

11:00 am A. & C. Hoffman

Lectors Lit. Coordinators Ministers

Saturday, Apr. 27

4:30 C. Gorski S. Wawro J. Stringhill, L. Santori, L. Aul
M. Moody, T. Rodriguez, K. Rygiel, S. Wawro

Sunday, Apr. 28

9:00 L. Kapolka B. Moskovitz M.A. McMillen, D. Seman
J. Russell, B.A. Linskens, M. & R. Smereczniak, B. Moskovitz

11:00 M. Patterson R. Hoffman F. Aleman, D. Bisceglia
W. & R. Hoffman, S. Kroskie, M. Iacoboni, C. Rhodes
Choir—T. Barger

Easter Gratefulness

As we bask in the glory that the Risen Lord brings I can't help but think over the past few weeks with much gratitude. As a parish family I think we celebrated this great feast with much style and grace. God's Spirit could certainly be felt in the hearts of all. Sometimes we do not realize how many people are involved in a single liturgy let alone an entire season. I certainly would like to thank everyone for their willingness to give so generously of their time and talents. In a special way I would like to recognize:

All of our Liturgical coordinators and ministers; the Lectors, Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, Altar Servers, Greeters and Ushers

Dean Dellamalva who directs the choir, Lisa Zubritsky who serves as our accompanist, all of the choir members who gave so much of their time with rehearsals.

All in all we as a Parish Family enjoyed a Blessed Easter celebration!

School News

Wishing you a Blessed Easter and offering gratitude for all of your prayers and support. Our annual Walk-A-Thon is May 3, 2019. Please pick up a sponsorship form in the back of Church. Kindergarten and PreK Orientation are also on May 3, 2019. Please contact the School to register: 724.929.5143.



First Holy Communion

Next weekend our second graders will be making their First Holy Communion. This is always a life giving time for our parish family. I ask that you keep these children in your thoughts and prayers as they share in the gift of the Eucharist.

Nominate a teacher for a Golden Apple Award

The Diocese of Greensburg will celebrate excellence in teaching in its Catholic schools with the Golden Apple Award, which will be presented at the annual A Celebration of Catholic Schools Breakfast. Awards honor educators who exhibit excellence in and out of the classroom, are committed to Catholic values and are devoted to teaching in a Catholic school. Nomination forms are at www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/celebration and can be mailed or emailed. The nomination deadline is **May 14**. For questions, contact Amanda Iwinski in the Office of Catholic Schools, aiwinski@dioceseofgreensburg.org.

Religious Education Class Schedule

There will be NO class for Religious Education students tomorrow Monday, **April 22**.

Classes will resume on Monday, **April 29**, at 6:15 pm in the Saint Sebastian School building.



Craft / Vender Show

Two weeks ago we celebrated another Craft / Vender show which was met with a tremendous amount of success. They raised \$3,400! I want to thank Kathy Rygiel and Pat Toth for sharing their organizational skills in putting it all together, and Anita Looper and Laura Wilson for the delicious food that they provided. All in all it was a wonderful time for all. This is just one more way that we can embrace the community with our hospitality. Thank you to all who helped!

Reality Tour—Getting “Real” About Drugs

Reality Tour (RT) is a national parent and child drug education and prevention program. **The next program is scheduled for April 22**. For more information, or to register, go to realitytour.org or call 724-797-0955.

Catholic Business & Professional Women

will meet on Tuesday, **April 23** at 6 p.m. in Epiphany church hall. If you have any questions about the meeting or organization, please call 724-684-7661. CBPW is a diocesan organization and open to all Catholic women.

Divine Mercy Sunday

The Church of St. Anne, 1870 Rostraver Road, Rostraver Twp., 15012, will celebrate the Chaplet of Divine Mercy next Sunday, **April 28**, at 3:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. The hour will include Adoration, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Benediction.

Spaghetti Dinner

The Church of St. Anne, Holy Name Society will hold a Spaghetti Dinner next Sunday, **April 28** from Noon until 4 p.m. Takes outs can be placed when you arrive. Adults: \$8—Spaghetti, \$9—Ravioli; Children—\$4.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

This year 81 shawls/lap blankets have been given to our homebound



parishioners. The ministry also makes specialty items for cancer patients and as well as baby blankets. Donations are needed to purchase yarn and other items to continue this ministry. For more information, call Darleen at 724-929-9300.

FROM THE PASTOR**We Celebrate Easter!**

The resurrection of Jesus is a paradox; we believe but we do not understand. The resurrection is a mystery which we can never understand but only believe. This mystery takes us beyond all which is familiar to us – to a realm where God’s glory and power lift us up to a new dignity of risen life. It is a freely given gift by the Divine One who has loved us from the beginning of creation, who breathed life into us, and who continues to beckon us to grow in the truth of who we are.

Easter is a celebration where we acknowledge who Christ really is, the one who shared in our humanity even to the point of accepting death, but who conquered death to raise us up to a share in his life. What exactly is it that we celebrate every year on Easter. We recognize the fact that Jesus rose from the dead; but, don’t we do that every time we celebrate the Eucharist? So, what makes Easter such a special celebration in our Church year? It might have something to do with the springtime of the year when everything in nature seems to resurrect. It might also have something to do with the fact that for forty days we have been anticipating this glorious day. Whatever the reason that makes this day so special, we like to celebrate it each and every year. We tell the wonderful story of the resurrection over and over again. Jesus squeezed life out of death and goodness and love triumphed.

The story of Easter is hard for us to accept because we have never seen or experienced anyone rise from the dead. So, we search for symbols to help us comprehend this great mystery. Just as at Christmas, Christians have come up with symbols to say something about resurrection. From ancient times the egg has been a symbol of fertility and immortality, and the church borrowed it and applied it as a visual lesson to the resurrection of Jesus. There is even a tradition that Simon of Cyrene, who helped Jesus carry his cross to Calvary, was an egg merchant. The legend has Simon returning to his shop after the crucifixion only to find that all of the eggs had turned miraculously into a variety of colors adorned with drawings. The butterfly is the most ancient symbol of the resurrection because they are born out of a caterpillar’s sleep in a cocoon, symbolizing the grave. They are transformed, as if with a glorified body, unconstrained by the limitations of matter, flying into the air.

These symbols are strong statements about life, and what happened on that first Easter morning is “life” itself. I pray that as you celebrate this day with your family and friends, the peace and the joy that resurrection brings to our lives may be yours in abundance. Have a wonderful celebration and rejoice in the fact that Jesus truly has risen and that same reward awaits each of us. Alleluia!!

Lord, please remember the sick, the homebound and those in nursing homes from our parish and community:

Doreen Abler, Minerva Albert, Donna Biagini, Sally Biava, Anthony Boyle, Dane Breakwell, Brennan Breakwell, Tricia Pelissero Bruenn, Adam Canigiani, Jr., Elizabeth Cannizzaro, Ron Carson, Eric Cecchetti, Josie Cekinovich, Jenna Christner, Albert Cialone, Joe Ciferno, Sr., Elaine Costello, George L. Cowan, Bernadette Dayner, Frank Delia, David Dubinsky, Darlene Engel, Betty Eversburg, Jean Ferreri, Autumn Fields, Betty Fisher, John Fisher, Dolores Frazier, John Gira, Mary Gira, Wayne Granchai, Michael J. Hazy, Betty Jean Henderson, Maureen Jenkins, Avery Kazakewicz, John Kelemen, Jr., Bronson Keller, Sr., Jared Konsugar, Terry Krolik, Lilian Laird, Cole Layhue, Catherine Lennex, James Litterini, Marjorie Lopez, Marge Marek, Stephen McCulloch, Brandon Morris, David Moskovitz, Tricia Pelissero Narus, Val Novak, Paul Novakovich, Melissa O’Brien, Julia Paholski, Jim Pascoe, Shirley Patten, Jack Pesi, Joy Pozum, Barbara Riffle, Joel Rivera, Dorothy Rodgers, Mary Ann Rocco, Matthew Ross, George Rue, Betty Savarino, Patricia Senko, Betty Smereczniak, Ralph Swantek, William Tansmore, Joseph P. Trenk, Debra Vaden, Christopher Valerio, Arlene Vargo, Melvin Walkush, Sr., Jack Welshans, Helene Wozniak.

Lord, give them strength in body, courage in spirit, and patience in pain. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please Note: If you know of someone who has recovered from his/her illness, or perhaps has passed away, please contact the Parish Office. Thank you.