



St. Sebastian Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania
Charitable
Trust

A Parish of the
Diocese of
Greensburg

Second Sunday of Easter—April 28, 2019



801 Broad Avenue ~ Belle Vernon, PA 15012

Parish Staff

Rev. Michael J. Crookston	Pastor
mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org	
Mr. Daniel F. Lisovich	Business Manager
dllisovich@dioceseofgreensburg.org	
Mr. Scott Martin	Director of Faith Formation
smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org	
Mr. Dean Dellamalva	Coordinator of Liturgical Music
ddellamalva@dioceseofgreensburg.org	
Mrs. Linda Drury	Parish Secretary
ldrury@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	724-929-9300

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 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, St. Sebastian.

Stewardship of Treasure—April 14, 2019

Regular Offertory: \$8,651.00 (354 envelopes out of 1301 families)

Youth: \$ 17.00

Loose: \$ 714.60

Total Offertory: \$ 9,382.60

Amount budgeted for weekly regular offertory \$7,986.31

Over/(under) budget: \$ 664.69

Average adult donation this weekend \$10.00 per envelope

Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	2,013.00
Votive Candles:	\$	241.00
Capital Project/Roof Fund:	\$	241.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	460.00
Good Friday:	\$	93.00
Lenten Offering:	\$	1,880.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	20.00
Easter :	\$	195.00
Holy Thursday..	\$	75.00
Ascension:	\$	5.00

Total April 13/14 collection: \$ 14,605.60

Diocesan Lenten Appeal

There are only a few more weeks left for this year's Diocesan Lenten Appeal. Remember that our Diocesan goal is \$60,675, and our parish goal is \$85,675. To date we have only heard from 14% or 177 of our parishioners amounting to \$39,107 or 64% of our diocesan goal. I am hoping that we will be able to collect enough money above our diocesan goal to get the new roof on the Church started. It would be wonderful to hear from 100% of our parishioners, but we have a long way to go before that happens. Please remember that it is not the amount of money that you are able to give, rather it is just being a part of the campaign. If you have any questions or concerns about our campaign this year, please know that I am always here to listen.

I do thank everyone who has thus far participated and ask the rest of our families to please consider doing so.

Sympathy and Prayers Please remember in your prayers those who have died: Daniel J. Tollan and Susan D. Jozefczyk . We extend our sympathy to their families. May they rest in peace.

Flowers This Week

Paschal Candle Flowers are in memory of the deceased members of the Biondo and Mazzei families by Christine Francia and family.



The Candle Ring Flowers are in memory of .Joseph A. Stringhill by his wife, Judy and family.

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society

St. Sebastian Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society will meet this week this **Tuesday, April 30**, at 7:00 pm in the Parish Center.

**SAVE THE DATE,
Monday, May 20, 6:30 p.m.
for our Parish Assembly.**

Stewardship of Treasure—April 21, 2019

Regular Offertory: \$ (354 envelopes out of 1301 families)

Youth: \$ 34.00

Loose: \$ 1,803.00

Total Offertory: \$ 7,587.00

Amount budgeted for weekly regular offertory \$7,986.31

Over/(under) budget: \$ (2,236.31)

Average adult donation this weekend \$10.00 per envelope

Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	98.00
Votive Candles:	\$	377.66
Capital Project/Roof Fund:	\$	28.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	720.00
Good Friday :	\$	2,064.00
Lenten Offering:	\$	937.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	5.00
Easter :	\$	10,233.00
Holy Thursday:	\$	1,417.48

Total April 20/21 collection: \$ 23,467.14

Easter Blessings!

This being my first Easter here at St. Sebastian's, I would like to say that I certainly felt the joy of the risen Lord. I am grateful to so many people who helped make our celebrations the success that they were. I am humbled by the many well wishes, cards and gifts. Please know that I am grateful to be serving as your Pastor and I certainly look forward to many celebrations in the future. I hope that this Easter Season brings to all of you a feeling of peace and joy!

Father Mike

Congratulations and God's Blessing on Our Newest Member

Last Saturday at the Easter Vigil **Pasquale (P.J.) Ciotti** professed his faith in the Catholic Church and received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. We welcome him into the Catholic Church and into our Parish family. P.J., may the risen Lord Jesus continue to be your life and joy!

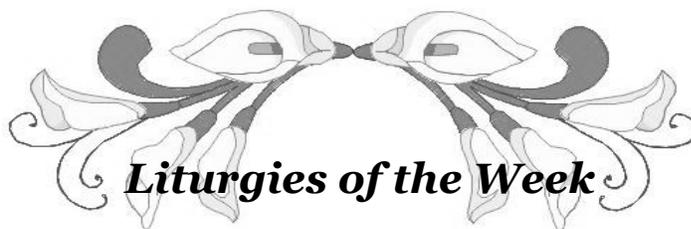
First Holy Communion



This 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.

Heifer International

This year for the first time we embarked on buying an ARK for the Heifer International. This was no light task, and you certainly rose to the challenge! Each week because of your donations we were able to board many different animals onto the ARK. Please know that what we are donating will certainly make a big difference in the lives of many people around the world. It is good to know that we as a parish family are able to touch the lives of so many people and make a big difference. I am grateful to everyone who donated to the ARK project, and CONGRATULATIONS on filling the ARK!!!



April 27—Vigil

9:00 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

Easter Monday, April 29

No Mass Today

Easter Tuesday, April 30

8:00 am The Yencsik Family—Helen Yencsik

Easter Wednesday, May 1

No Mass Today

Easter Thursday, May 2

No Mass Today

Easter Friday, May 3

8:00 am (Death Anniv) Frances Seman—Paul & Joyce Seman

Saturday, May 4

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, May 4—Vigil

4:30 pm (Death Anniv) Conrad Lama—Lou & Pat Toth
Sacrament of Baptism

May 5—Third Sunday of Easter

9:00 am Holy Rosary Society—Rosary Society
Sacrament of Baptism

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

Liturgical Ministers—Servers

Saturday, May 4 4:30 pm N. & V. Francia

Sunday, May 5 9:00 am G. & J. Pokol

11:00 am E. Angelo, L. DiPietrantonio

Lectors Lit. Coordinators Ministers

Saturday, May 4

4:30 D. Free J. Barnot J. Wiggins, C. Farrier, M. Grados
M. Free, J. Moody, J. Stringhill, L. Santori

Sunday, May 5

9:00 M. Shaughnessy L. Kibler L. Turcheck, M.A. Mc Millen
D. Stasko, J. Russell, B. Mallonee, D. Seman, L. Kibler

11:00 T. Sebetich C. Korber E. Studnicki, M. Strickland
G. Rush, C. Korber, G. Klamerus, J. Cannizzaro, R. Messick

Choir—S. Messick

MEDITATION OF THE DAY

“The Eucharist is alive. If a stranger who knew nothing about the Eucharist were to watch the way we receive, would he know this? When you and I approach the Eucharist, does it look like we believe we are about to take into our bodies the living person, Jesus Christ, true God and true man? How many times, Lord, have I forgotten that the Eucharist is alive! As I wait in line to receive you each day, am I thinking about how much you want to unite yourself with me? Am I seeing your hands filled with the graces you want to give me? Am I filled with awe and gratitude that you love me so much as to actually want to come to me in this incredibly intimate way? Or am I distracted, busy with other thoughts, preoccupied with myself and my agendas for the day? How many times, Jesus, have I made you sad, mindlessly receiving you into my body, into my heart, with no love and no recognition of your love? How many times have I treated you as a dead object? The Host that we receive is not a thing! It's not a wafer! It's not bread! It's a person—He's alive!”

Catholic author & speaker, Vinny Flynn

Divine Mercy Sunday celebration

Bishop Malesic will lead an outdoor service and Eucharistic procession for Divine Mercy Sunday, **April 28, at 3 p.m.** in St. Clair Park on North Maple Avenue, Greensburg. In case of inclement weather, the service will be moved to the Cathedral.

Religious Education

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

Next Monday, May 6, is the last day of CCD, and we celebrate with an Ice Cream Social!

Divine Mercy Sunday

The Church of St. Anne, 1870 Rostraver Road, Rostraver Twp., 15012, will celebrate the Chaplet of Divine Mercy today Sunday, **April 28**, from 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 today 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.

School News



Wishing you a Blessed Easter Season 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 church pamphlet racks. Kindergarten and PreK Orientation are also on May 3, 2019. Please contact the School to register: 724.929.5143.

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. The deadline is **May 14**. For questions, contact Amanda Iwinski at: aiwinski@dioceseofgreensburg.org.

Meals on Wheels

Volunteer help is needed in Fayette County for Home Delivered Meals. Deliveries are made to Fayette City and the Fayette County half of Belle Vernon. For more information or to volunteer, call Center on The Hill at 724-930-8512.

FROM THE PASTOR **Resurrection People, Alleluia!**

Today's gospel gives us a lesson on persistence and forgiveness. We find that the disciples were hiding in their grief, crushed with disappointment sorrow. They had lost their best friend and all of their hopes and dreams were suddenly gone. They didn't know what to do or how to go on living. When Jesus came to them they were given back the peace that they had lost, their hopes and dreams were restored and they were a people reborn with hope in the risen Lord. It just so happened that one of the original apostles was not there when Jesus came and it was his doubt that we focus on today. I am sure that I probably would have reacted in much the same way as Thomas. If someone told me that my best friend had just risen from the dead, I would certainly have my doubts. However, nothing deters Jesus from sharing his Spirit and new life with his disciples. He persists until he brings all – not just the early disciples and Thomas but all of us today – to peace, forgiveness, and new life. Jesus is caring for his disciples and calling them to a belief in him which brings new life and presence.

During this Easter Season we will be hearing from the Book of Revelation as the source of the second reading. This book can help us understand not only the signs of the times in the early church but also our time as well. Revelation invites us to think about current events in our world and see what we are to learn and how we are to grow. We must first understand that in the biblical world it was acceptable to exaggerate in order to make a point. Embellishment is certainly not new to any of us. We all embellish a story in order to get our point across. We find some of this embellishment in the first reading which shows the early church to be somewhat "ideal" even with all of the advisories it had to deal with. Despite it all, the story that is told is done so with great optimism as if everything is fine.

The second reading is full of exaggeration and symbolism. John, the author of the book uses stark images to convey religious truths. At the time of this reading there were seven churches in Ephesus and they all lived in fear. But the symbols in this reading intend to give believers hope. The writer intends to reassure these believers not to be afraid. As Jesus died but now lives, so too, must suffering Christians have faith in the one who has triumphed over death. If we look at our world today there is certainly much fear and suffering. We also must take hope in the same way that the early Christians did in the peace that the risen Lord brings.

Thomas represents the doubt in all of us who believe even though we have not seen. Today the Church brings the presence of the risen Jesus to others, and we are the Church. Faithful disciples are Jesus' persistent presence in our world. We forgive when we see and treat someone who has hurt us as the risen Christ. We preach when we share with our young ones the gospels and the Christian way to live what they announce. We teach when we live in ways which clearly put the other ahead of ourselves. We heal when we touch others physically or emotionally. We add to our numbers when our lives witness the love and care that Jesus had in real tangible ways. God doesn't ask us to be heroes in our witnessing in resurrection faith and bringing Jesus' presence to others. God only asks that we be as alive to new, new Easter life as was the Jesus who showed the disciples his hands and side.

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., Jackie Koliscak, Jared Konsugar, Terry Krolik, Lilian Laird, Cole Layhue, Catherine Lennox, 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 Pesic, 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.