



# St. Sebastian Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

## Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time August 11, 2019

Be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding.

Luke 12:35



801 Broad Avenue •~• Belle Vernon, PA 15012

### Parish Staff

Rev. Michael J. Crookston	Pastor
mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org	
Rev. Elmer Q. Alforque	Parochial Vicar
ealforque@dioceseofgreensburg.org	
Mr. Daniel F. Lisovich	Business Manager
dliovich@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

**Emergency Number for a Sick Call:**  
724-684-7661

**Parish Website:** [www.saintsebastianchurch.org](http://www.saintsebastianchurch.org)

### Weekend Masses:

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

**Weekday Masses:** Mon.—Fri. 8:00 a.m.

### 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. - 3:00 p.m.

### Saint Sebastian Regional School

Mrs. Carol Aiello	Principal
caiello@dioceseofgreensburg.org	
Mrs. Tiffany Miller	School Business Manager
tmiller@ssbv.org	
School Telephone	724-929-5143
School Fax	724-929-3038
Website	<a href="http://www.ssbv.org">www.ssbv.org</a>

**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.

**TRAVEL GROUP**

Join us on Thursday, **October 10**, to see MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET a musical of the Rock n Roll era. Dinner at DeNunzio's Italian Restaurant, followed by the show at Mountain Playhouse. Then explore the Quecreek Mine Site and learn about the dramatic rescue of the miners that were trapped there. A free ice cream sundae at Dairy Queen on the way home.



It's not too late to sign up for the ARK ADVENTURE, **October 16 & 17**, where you will feel like you're walking through the Bible. Check into the Holiday Inn after which we will board the "River Queen" for the captain's dinner cruise. In the morning,

breakfast at the hotel, then off to see the full scale replica of Noah's Ark. For more information call Sandy Wawro at 724-938-0865.

**URGENTLY NEEDED**

**With our Parish Picnic scheduled for August 25, we still do not have a Picnic coordinator. Please call the Parish Office if you can volunteer to chair our Parish Picnic.**

**Volunteer Support for Faith Formation**



Our faith formation program is in need of volunteers! Volunteers are needed as **catechists, for 2nd and 6th grades**, substitute teachers, aides, and hall monitors. All clearances are necessary as these people regularly work with children. Please call the Faith Formation Office to volunteer (724-929-9300).

**MAKING PIEROGI'S**

We will need volunteers to help make pierogi's for the Parish Festival. If you would like to help and learn if you've never made them before, come to the Parish Hall on **August 19 & 20**, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and join in the fun. Many hands are needed to make lots of delicious pierogi's!!

**Second Collection**

Today the second collection is for the Catholic Accent, our diocesan newspaper.

**NOT EASY**

Faith makes all things possible, --it does not make them easy.  
*Anonymous*

**Parish Festival!**

Last week we had a meeting for our Festival which will be held on **September 29** from Noon until 7:00 pm. We had a wonderful turn out of people who came to be a part of the festival this year. There will be many exciting things to do, so mark your calendars and plan on spending the afternoon with your parish family. Steve and Sarah brought some samples of their delicious chocolates!!!! That in and of itself is reason to come.

**Stewardship of Treasure—August 4, 2019**

<b>Regular Offertory:</b>	<b>\$ 7,342.69</b>	(275 envelopes out of 1300 families)
<b>Youth:</b>	<b>\$ 19.00</b>	
<b>Loose:</b>	<b>\$ 788.25</b>	
<b>Total Offertory:</b>	<b>\$ 8,149.94</b>	
<b>Amount budgeted for weekly regular offertory</b>	<b>\$7,986.31</b>	
<b>Over/(under) budget:</b>	<b>\$ (643.62)</b>	
<b>Average adult donation this weekend</b>	<b>\$10.00 per envelope</b>	
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	73.00
Votive Candles:	\$	340.01
Capital Project/Roof Fund:	\$	1,029.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	358.00
Assumption:	\$	70.00
Seminary/Religious:	\$	5.00
Peter's Pence:	\$	10.00
Mission Co-Op:	\$	100.00
Catholic Univ/Schools:	\$	45.00
<b>Total August 3/4 collection:</b>	<b>\$ 10,179.95</b>	

## Looking to September...

It certainly won't be long until the children start back to school and the schedules for fall kick in. I guess it is a good thing that we cannot stop time; it constantly challenges us to move forward. In looking forward to the coming months, many organizations resume their monthly meetings and new activities are planned.

In looking at our busy lives, sometimes we need to assess how we spend our time and energy. Sometimes we find that we are busy running all of the time and get nothing done. This is the time of year when we look at the various ministries in our Church, and try to see what we are able to do. It is not always taking something more on as much as it is just utilizing our time more wisely.

If we are already at mass, why not share some of your time by assisting at the liturgy? There are many ways that your help will benefit the entire community. Throughout this month I will be talking about the various ways you will be able to help and explain the different ministries that are part of the liturgy. For now, just look at your life and see just how you might be able to manage things so that you are not driving yourself crazy!

## Day of Prayer

Bishop Edward C. Malesic of the Diocese of Greensburg announces a Day of Prayer throughout the Diocese of Greensburg on Wednesday, **August 14, 2019**. All parish churches in the Diocese of Greensburg will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for private prayer with a special intention for those who have been abused and for the healing of the Church. On August 14, 2018, the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report on Clergy Abuse was released to the public. This Day of Prayer is part of many efforts to try to help survivors, their families and our parishioners get through this time of suffering.

## Solemnity of the Assumption

Masses for the holyday:

**Wednesday, August 14,**

Saint Sebastian—6:30 p.m.

Holy Family—7:00 p.m.

**Thursday, August 15**

Church of Saint Anne—8 a.m. & 7 p.m.

Epiphany of Our Lord—8 a.m. & 12 p.m.

Saint Sebastian—9:00 a.m.

## Liturgies of the Week

### August 10—Vigil

4:30 pm (Date of Birth) Conrad L. Lama—Wife, Children & Grandchildren

### August 11—Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am (Date of Birth) Clyde Andreani, Sr.—Wife, Filomena & Family

11:00 am Edward Gazi—Honora Varchulik  
*Sacrament of Baptism*

### Monday, August 12—St. Jane Frances de Chantal

8:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

### Tuesday, August 13—Ss. Pontian & Hippolytus

8:00 am (Date of Birth) Thomas Sveda—Family

### Wednesday, August 14—Vigil

6:30 pm (MM) Neil Cope—Tanya Cope

### Thursday, August 15—Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9:00 am (Death Anniv) Frank Kosik—Bernadette Zunic & Annette Snyder

### Friday, August 16—St. Stephen of Hungary

8:00 am (Date of Birth) William D. Weaver—Grace Zeglin

### Saturday, August 17

3:00 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

### Saturday, August 17—Vigil

4:30 pm (Date of Birth) Jeffrey Francis Sefchok—Mom & Brothers

### August 18—20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am (Death Anniv) Lee Vincent Yowonske—Jerry & Carol Claybaugh

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

### Liturgical Ministers—Servers

Saturday, Aug. 17 4:30 pm M. Hamed, M. Wasicek

Sunday, Aug. 18 9:00 am G. & J. Pokol

11:00 am A. & C. Hoffman

**Lectors Lit. Coordinators Ministers**

### Saturday, Aug. 17

4:30 C. Gorski J. Moody L. Santori, J. Stringhill, S. Zolock  
J. Moody

### Sunday, Aug. 18

9:00 M. Shaughnessy L. Kibler M. & R. Smrecznik  
D. Stasko, L. Kibler

11:00 M. Patterson R. Hoffman D. Bisceglia, M. Druciak  
W. & R. Hoffman

The parish office will be closed this Thursday, August 15, in observance of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



## Vacation Bible School

VBS is being offered at St. John the Baptist on **August 13**; the lessons will be repeated at Epiphany of Our Lord on **August 14**. Learn about the "Good Samaritan". Time is 6—8 p.m. Registration forms are in the pamphlet racks.

## Feast of the Assumption to be celebrated at Christ Our Shepherd Center

Bishop Malesic will lead a celebration of the diocese's patronal feast, the Feast of the Assumption, **August 15** at the Christ Our Shepherd Center near Greensburg. The bishop will celebrate Mass at 7:00 p.m. in St. Joseph Chapel then lead an outdoor candlelight procession with recitation of the rosary in multiple languages.

## Church Flea Market

St. John the Baptist, Perryopolis is holding their annual Summer Flea Market **August 11** from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm in their Parish Social Hall. Come and find your treasures.

## Holy Family Parish, Sponsoring Dinner

Holy Family Parish, West Newton, will sponsor a stuffed pork chop dinner at Gary's Chuck Wagon on South Second St., West Newton, **August 24** from 4-7 p.m. Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased at the restaurant or by calling 724-872-8920.

## "Help for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren" August 13

St. Cecilia Parish, Whitney, will host "Help for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren" at the parish hall **August 13** at 5:30 p.m. to help grandparents and other people near retirement who have unexpectedly become the primary caregivers for their grandchildren. A speaker will provide information about preparing children for the start of the school year and drawings will be held for backpacks filled with school supplies. Childcare will be available. Call 724-423-3777. The program is sponsored by St. Cecilia Parish and Sacred Heart Parish, Youngstown, and Trinity Evangelical Lutheran.

## Pathways registration open for 2019-20

Registration is open for Pathways, which is the diocese's commitment to adult faith formation and nurturing mature discipleship. There are 12 evening sessions, three workshops and a closing retreat. Pathways will be held Thursdays from 6:30 -9 p.m. at St. Barbara Parish, Harrison City. To register online, go to [www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/pathways](http://www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/pathways). Or email [pathways@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:pathways@dioceseofgreensburg.org) or call the Office of Faith, Family and Discipleship at 724-552-2598. Financial assistance is available from the Francis Fund. For information, call 724-837-0901, ext. 1249.

## School News



Introducing Mrs. Carole Aiello as the new principal of St. Sebastian Regional School. Mrs. Aiello has extensive experience in Catholic education and was most recently the principal of a Catholic elementary school in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. A Golden Apple Awardee for excellence in teaching, Mrs. Aiello possesses PA certification in the areas of Elementary Education, Mental and/or Physically Handicapped Education, and Principal PK-12. Mrs. Aiello attended Catholic school and is excited to share the joy of a Catholic education with the students and families of St. Sebastian's. Mrs. Aiello has a sincere commitment to Catholic education, along with enthusiastic dedication to the spiritual and academic development of today's youth.

## Speaker at St. Vincent Basilica September 22

St. Vincent Basilica Parish, Latrobe, will host author Dr. Derya Little, a guest on EWTN's "The Journey Home" and "Live with Father Mitch Pacwa," **September 22** from 3:30-4:45 p.m. in their Parish Assembly Room. Her talk will be "On Journey from Islam to the Catholic Church through Atheism and Protestantism" and will include a question-and-answer session.

## ***FROM THE PASTOR***

### **It's all about the final Victory!**

How many of us feel that we have been “called” through our Baptismal promises. How often do we as people stop and think about the commitment we have agreed to? Today our readings speak to us about how much faith dominates our lives. It causes us to pause for just a moment and think about how we are living. Remembering that life is not about us, rather it is all about the final victory, is sometimes far from our thoughts. Our liturgy today is telling us that if we have faith, there is no room for fear.

“Faithful readiness” seems to be the theme which we are to carry with us this week. Our first reading is from the book of Wisdom. Wisdom literature was written to build up the faith of the Jewish people amidst the troubles of life. As the people of Israel became associated with other peoples and their cultures many of them left their faith and were enticed to embrace other beliefs. It was the responsibility of the writers of the scriptures to help them find their way back. Readings such as what we hear today are to give the people hope in the midst of temptations to stay loyal to the promise of Yahweh.

Why is it so difficult to be true to what we profess? It is so easy for people today to say one thing and in reality mean something completely different. There are literally millions of Christians out there in our world (and in our midst) who were baptized in the faith but are now no longer associated with any church. We all know people like this, many of them are within our own families. Yet, whenever they want the church for their own purposes they feel entitled! This is as frustrating today as it was in the day that Wisdom was written. It is for that reason that we constantly hear about the virtue of faith and how important it is in life, not just when we decide we need it.

In the second reading, a letter to the Hebrews, Abraham is presented as that man of faith who, not knowing the future and what it will bring, nonetheless, goes out into a foreign country to establish a new people with his descendants Isaac and Jacob. All the ingredients necessary for a strong faith are there: perseverance, trust in God, confidence, and hope. Abraham never saw the fulfillment of his promise, but remained steadfast in his pursuit. The author of Hebrews puts us Christians into the world of Abraham to help us to try to emulate the trust and faith of Abraham, our father in faith.

Jesus speaks to us about living the faith that we profess. If we live by what we say we are then we will always be prepared for life or death. Jesus never meant for his parables to put fear into our hearts, rather He calls us to live out of the motive of faith and vigilance for the day of His return. Being a disciple is not something that we schedule into our lives once a week, rather being a disciple is simply *being a disciple!* The way we live, witnesses to where our treasure is. Our lives should challenge others to prioritize their own treasures. Clearly, God must have priority in our lives.

*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, Betty Eversburg, Jean Ferreri, Autumn Fields, Betty Fisher, John Fisher, Dolores Frazier, John Gira, Mary Gira, Wayne Granchai, Michael J. Hazy, Betty Jean Henderson, Avery Kazakewicz, John Kelemen, Jr., Bronson Keller, Sr., Jackie Koliscak, Jared Konsugar, Terry Krolik, Lilian Laird, Cole Layhue, Catherine Lennex, James Litterini, Marjorie Lopez, Marge Marek, Stephen McCulloch, Onie Misher, Brandon Morris, Tricia Pelissero Narus, Val Novak, Paul Novakovich, Melissa O'Brien, Julia Paholski, 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, Robbie Stout, Ralph Swantek, William Tansmore, Joseph P. Trenk, Debra Vaden, Christopher Valerio, Arlene Vargo, Melvin Walkush, Sr., Jack Welshans, Helene Wozniak, Paul Zoppetti.

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.***